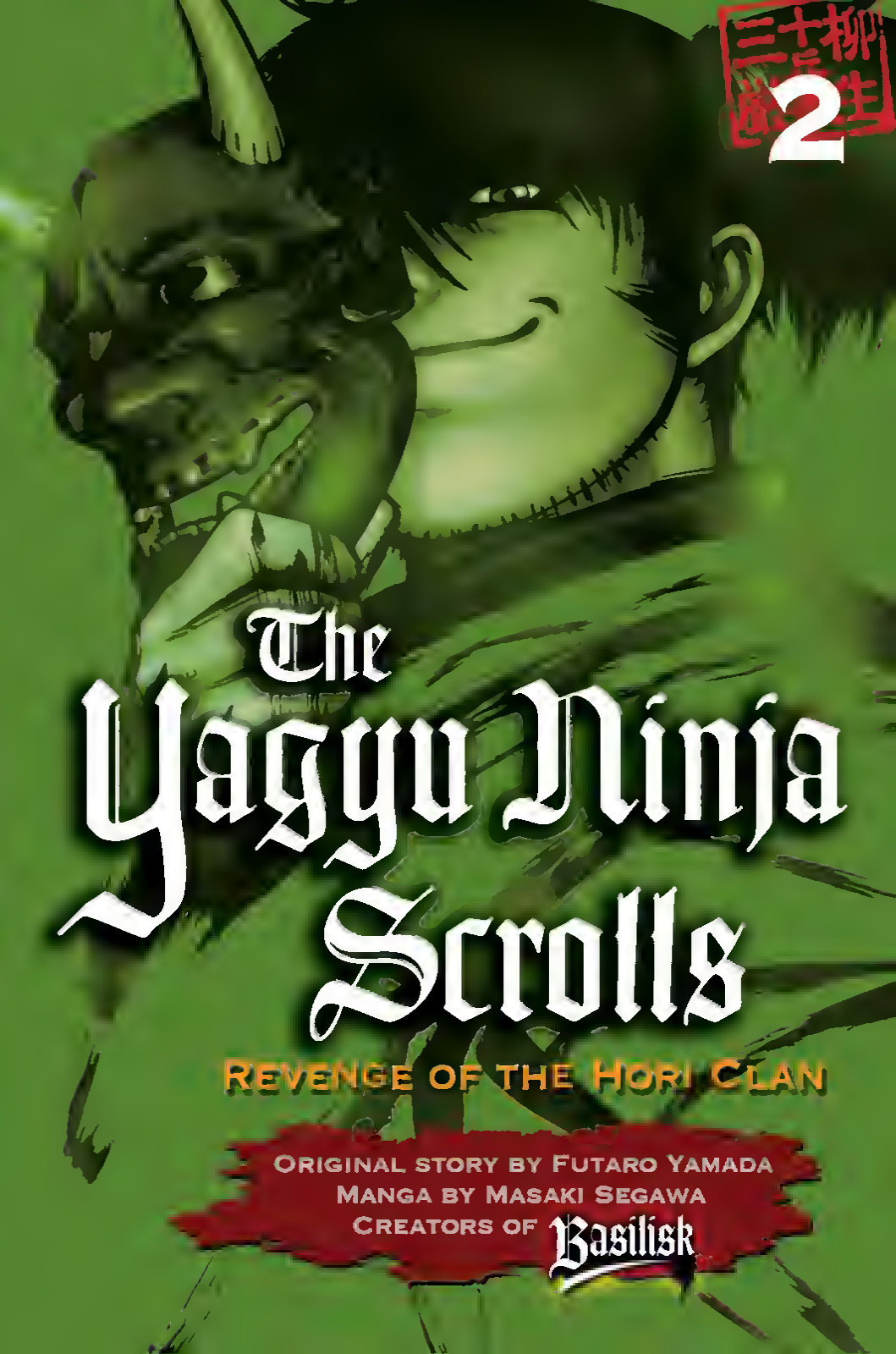
2
The
Yagyu Ninja
Scrolls
Revenge of the Hori Clan
Original story by Futaro Yamada
Manga by Masaki Segawa
Creators of Basilisk

The Yagyu Ninja Scrolls

Revenge of the Hori Clan

ORIGINAL STORY BY FŪTARO YAMADA
MANGA BY MASAKI SEGAWA

TRANSLATED AND ADAPTED BY MINI EDA
LETTERED BY B. HAN

2

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First published in Japan in 2005 by Kodansha Ltd., Tokyo.

Translator/adapter: Mari Eda
Letterer: B. Han

Honorifics Explained

In this manga book, you will find Japanese honorifics left intact in the translations. For those not familiar with how the Japanese use honorifics and, more important, how they differ from American honorifics, we present this brief overview.

Politeness has always been a critical facet of Japanese culture. Ever since the feudal era, when Japan was a highly stratified society, use of honorifics—which can be defined as polite speech that indicates relationship or status—has played an essential role in the Japanese language. When addressing someone in Japanese, an honorific usually takes the form of a suffix attached to one's name (example: "Asuna-san"), is used as a title at the end of one's name, or appears in place of the name itself (example: "Negi-sensei," or simply "Sensei!").

Honorifics can be expressions of respect or endearment. In the context of manga and anime, honorifics give insight into the nature of the relationship between characters. Many English translations leave out these important honorifics and therefore distort the feel of the original Japanese. Because Japanese honorifics contain nuances that English honorifics lack, it is our policy not to translate them. Here, instead, is a guide to some of the honorifics you may encounter in our manga.

-san: This is the most common honorific and is equivalent to Mr., Miss, Ms., Mrs. It is the all-purpose honorific and can be used in any situation where politeness is required.

-sama: This is one level higher than "-san" and is used to confer great respect.

-dono: This comes from the word "tono," which means "lord." It is an even higher level than "-sama" and confers utmost respect.

-kun: This suffix is used at the end of boys' names to express familiarity or endearment. It is also sometimes used by men among friends, or when addressing someone younger or of a lower station.

-chan: This is used to express endearment, mostly toward girls. It is also used for little boys, pets, and even among lovers. It gives a sense of childish cuteness.

Bozu: This is an informal way to refer to a boy, similar to the English terms "kid" and "squirt."

Sempai/Senpai: This title suggests that the addressee is one's senior in a group or organization. It is most often used in a school setting, where underclassmen refer to their upperclassmen as "sempai." It can also be used in the workplace, such as when a newer employee addresses an employee who has seniority in the company.

Kohai: This is the opposite of "sempai" and is used toward underclassmen in school or newcomers in the workplace. It connotes that the addressee is of a lower station.

Sensei: Literally meaning "one who has come before," this title is used for teachers, doctors, or masters of any profession or art.

-[blank]: This is usually forgotten in these lists, but it is perhaps the most significant difference between Japanese and English. The lack of honorific means that the speaker has permission to address the person in a very intimate way. Usually, only family, spouses, or very close friends have this kind of permission. Known as *yobisute*, it can be gratifying when someone who has earned the intimacy starts to call one by one's name without an honorific. But when that intimacy hasn't been earned, it can be very insulting.

The Yagyu Ninja Scrolls

2

ORIGINAL STORY BY
FŪTARO YAMADA

MANGA BY
MASAKI SEGAWA

The Yagyu Ninja Scrolls

INTRODUCTION OF CHARACTERS

SYNOPSIS: THE REBEL MEMBERS OF THE HORI CLAN HAVE BEEN BRUTALLY EXECUTED BY THE AIZU SEVEN SPEARS, WHO SERVE UNDER THE MURDEROUS AIZU CLAN HEAD, KATÔ AKINARI. SEEKING REVENGE, OCHIE AND THE SURVIVING WOMEN OF THE HORI FAMILY ENLIST THE HELP OF YAGYÛ JYÛBEI MITSUYOSHI AS THEIR FIGHTING ARTS INSTRUCTOR. JYÛBEI AGREES TO INSTRUCT THEM, ON THE CONDITION THAT THEY ARE PREPARED TO LOSE THEIR LIVES AND THEIR "CHASTITY." TO DEFEAT THE POWERFUL SEVEN SPEARS, THEY WILL NEED TO ENDURE GRUELING LESSONS, WILL NEED JYÛBEI'S CUNNING, AND A LOT OF LUCK. WHICH OF THE SEVEN SPEARS WILL JYÛBEI SET HIS SIGHTS ON FIRST?

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The Yagyu Ninja Scrolls 2

LEAVE HIM TO ME!!
TESSAI!!
ZA
ZAZAZAZAZA

STORY 7: THE MAN IN THE RED MAS

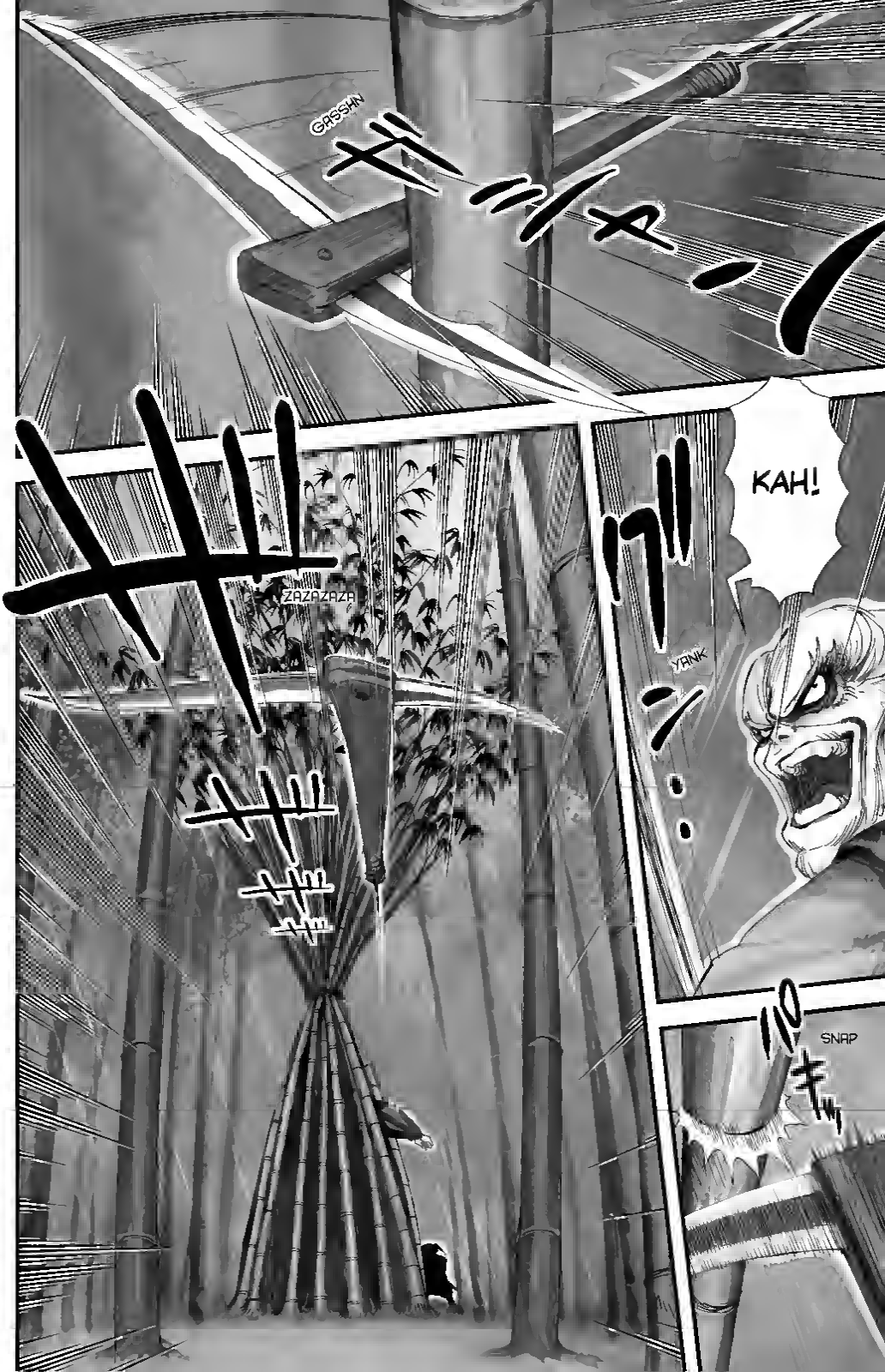
ZAZAZA
HUH!?
AIZU SEVEN SPEARS
DAIDOJI TESSAI
PULL
クイッ
ZAAAAAA
アアアア

THIS GARDEN...
ZAAAA
WAS COMMISSIONED BY KATÔ YOSHIAKI AND DESIGNED BY KOBORI TOHTOUMI.
JIRI
IN THE ENSHŪ* STYLE...
CLACK
Enshu style: A design favored by the samurai class and originated by famed master of the tea ceremony Kobori Enshu (Tohtoumi)

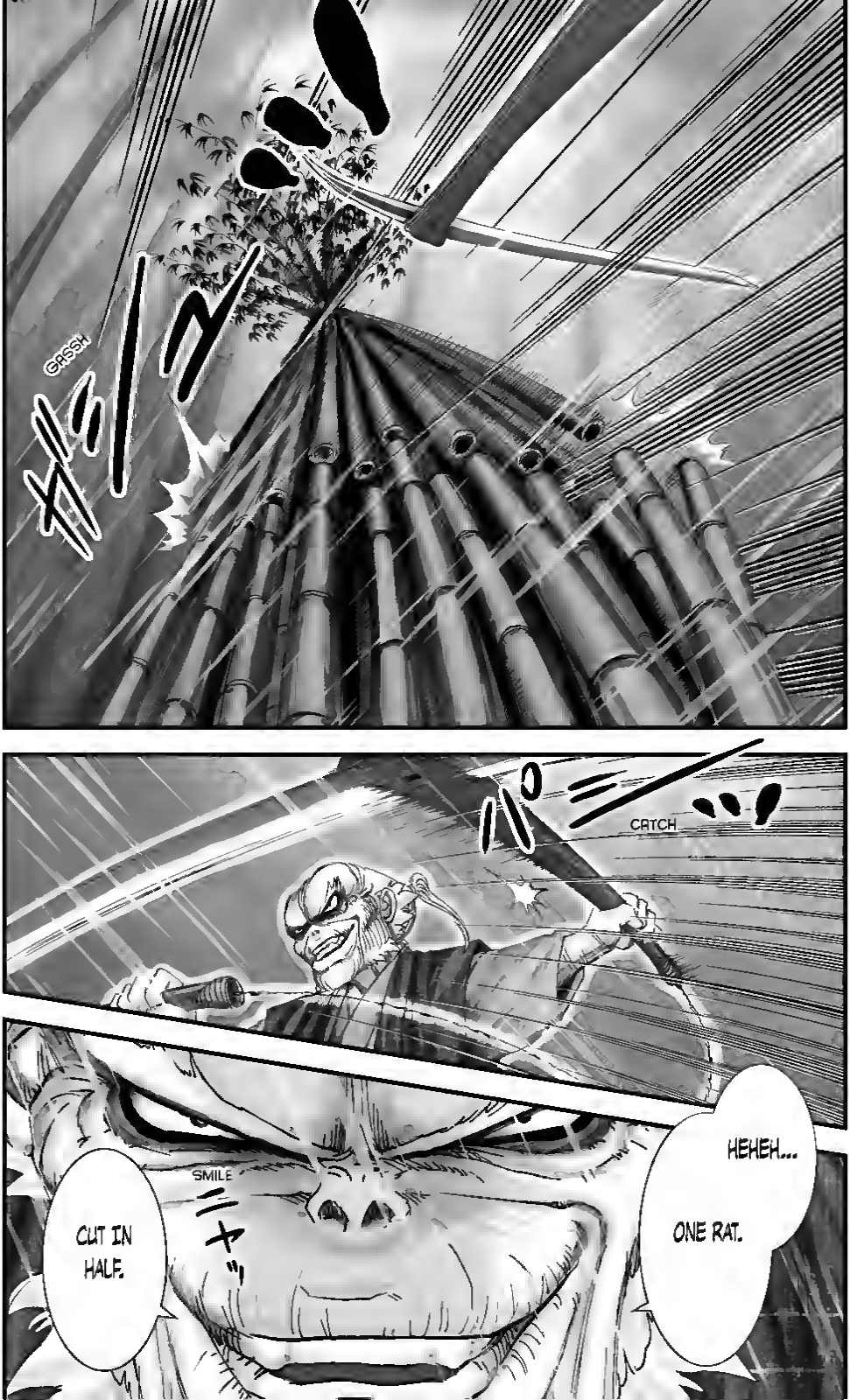
IT MAY BE DESOLATE...
BUT THIS IS NO PLACE
FOR A RAT LIKE YOU...
GRIP
TO CRAWL AROUND IN!!
WHISSH
JANGLE

ZAAAAA
HRGH!
YANK
TWIST
TWIST
TWIST
KA
KA
KA
KA
JANGLE
CRACK
CRACK
CRUNCH
GWO

JANGLE
PULL
YOU BASTARD!!
HEHEH...
THINK YOU'RE SAFE THERE?
HOOK
KU
KUKU...


GASSHN
ZAZAZAZA
KAH!
YANK
SNAP

NO TIME TO ESCAPE OR DRAW YOUR SWORD!
ZAZAZAZAZAZA
LIKE A RAT TRAPPED IN A CAGE!!


GASSH
CATCH
HEHEH...
ONE RAT.
SMILE
CUT IN HALF.

ZAAAA
ヤアアアア
THONK
ポト
THUD
コト
HUH?

IM... IMPOSSIBLE!
GA
GAKO

JANGLE
ジャン
JANGLE
ジャン
TOPPLE
バラララ…

ZAAAAA
CLINK
HEH.

ZAAAAA
G...
RGH...

ZAAAAA
アアアア
アア
.....
TESSAI, WHERE'S THE HANNYA MASK?
ZA

THE BASTARD... ESCAPED
FROM... MY GRASP.

TESSAI!?
.....
CLENCH

ZAAAAA
ァァァァァ

ZAAAA
SPLASH
SLIDE
AIZU SEVEN SPEARS... THEY'RE EVEN STRONGER THAN I THOUGHT.
GOT ME IN A COLD SWEAT.

BUT I CAN'T BE THE ONE...
TO KILL THE AIZU SEVEN SPEARS...
THEY DO...
...SO...

SCRATCH
SCRATCH
.....
THIS...IS GOING TO BE...TOUGH.
STORY 7 END

EDO
SHINAGAWA

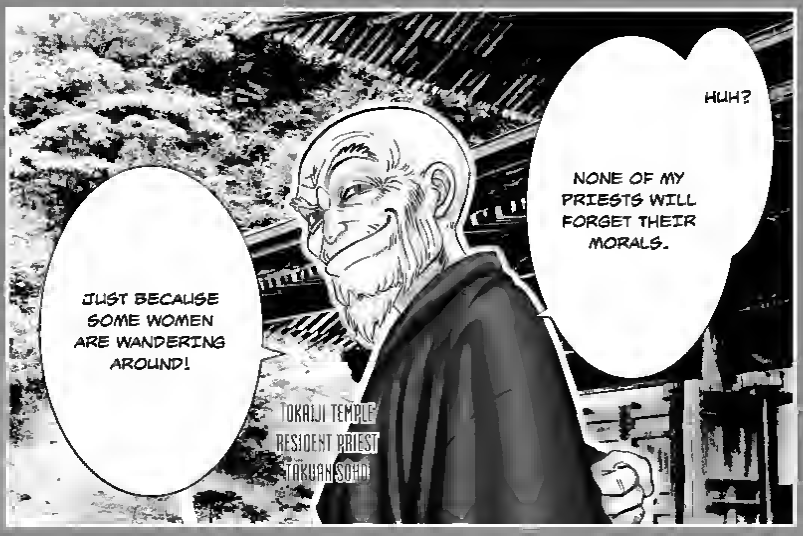
BANSHŌSAN
TŌKAIJI
TEMPLE

HILL
IN THE
BACKYARD
. . . . .
OTORI
SAKURA
OCHIE
OFUE

STORY 8: THE MAN IN THE RED MASK (2)

*No garlic or alcohol rule often posted in front of Zen temples. Vegetables with strong aromas like garlic were said to have aphrodisiac properties.

WHILE WE MAY HAVE MASTER TAKUAN'S PERMISSION...
BUT

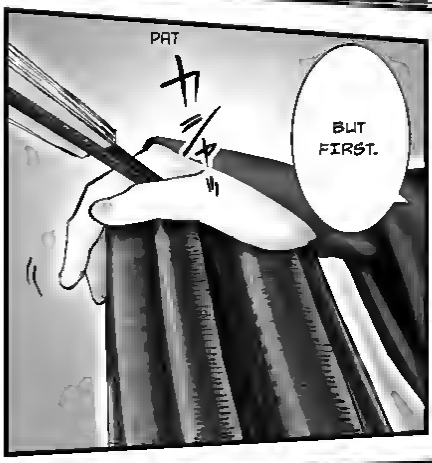

JUST BECAUSE SOME WOMEN ARE WANDERING AROUND!
TOKAIJI TEMPLE RESIDENT PRIEST TAKUAN SOHO
HUH?
NONE OF MY PRIESTS WILL FORGET THEIR MORALS.

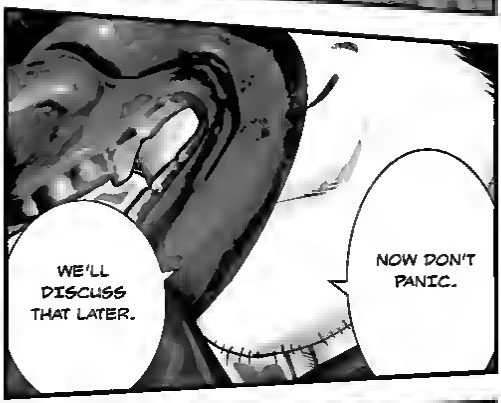
DON'T THINK THIS IS PAYBACK FOR MAKING ME WEAR THE BELL AT THE CONVENT.
I WOULD LOSE FACE!
...IF YOU WERE TO TROUBLE THE PRIESTS IN ANY WAY.

FAN
FAN
FAN
...IT'S PAY-BACK...
PAY-BACK.
...IT'S PAY-BACK.
PAY-BACK...
SLIDE
HM!
AND TRIED TO TEASE THEM OUT.
LAST NIGHT I WENT TO THE KATÔ MANSION WITH THIS ON.
SNAP
THAT... MASK...?
OH, THIS.
OHHHHH!
OH...

HEH.
EDO HAS MANY MASTER SWORDMEN.
BUT FEW ARE MISSING AN EYE.
AND SO...
SLIDE
I DECIDED TO WEAR THIS MASK!

WH-WHAT OF AKINARI!?
THE SEVEN SPEARS!?


PAT
BUT FIRST.


NOW DON'T PANIC.
WE'LL DISCUSS THAT LATER.

WE MUST...
FIND SOMETHING OUT.
SNAP

INSIDE THE KATÔ MANSION PROPERTY WEAPONS STOREROOM
SO THE INTRUDER IN THE RED WAS...
HE MOCKED YOU.
AND YOU ALLOWED HIM TO ESCAPE... IS THAT IT?
TESSAI.
...GETTING OLD?
SMILE
AIZU SEVEN SPEARS URUSHIDO KOSHICHIRO
...IT'S NOT LIKE YOU.
.....

WHISSH
GA
CREAK
DON'T GET SO ANGRY TESSAI
...I'M JOKING

...WHO WAS HE?
COULD BE ONE OF TWO POSSIBILITIES.
AIZU SEVEN SPEARS
AIKAWA MAGOBEI
HEED MY ADVICE, KÔSHICHIRÔ.
DON'T UNDERESTIMATE HIM...EVER.
FIRST... A SHOGUN SPY.
THE FIRST?
.....
...SOMEONE... FROM THE HORI FACTION...
IF HE WAS A SPY. IT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE...
WHY WOULD HE SHOW HIMSELF AND MOCK YOU
AND SECOND?
CRACK
ユキ
CRACK
ユキ
AIZU SEVEN SPEARS
SHIBA JICHIANBÔ

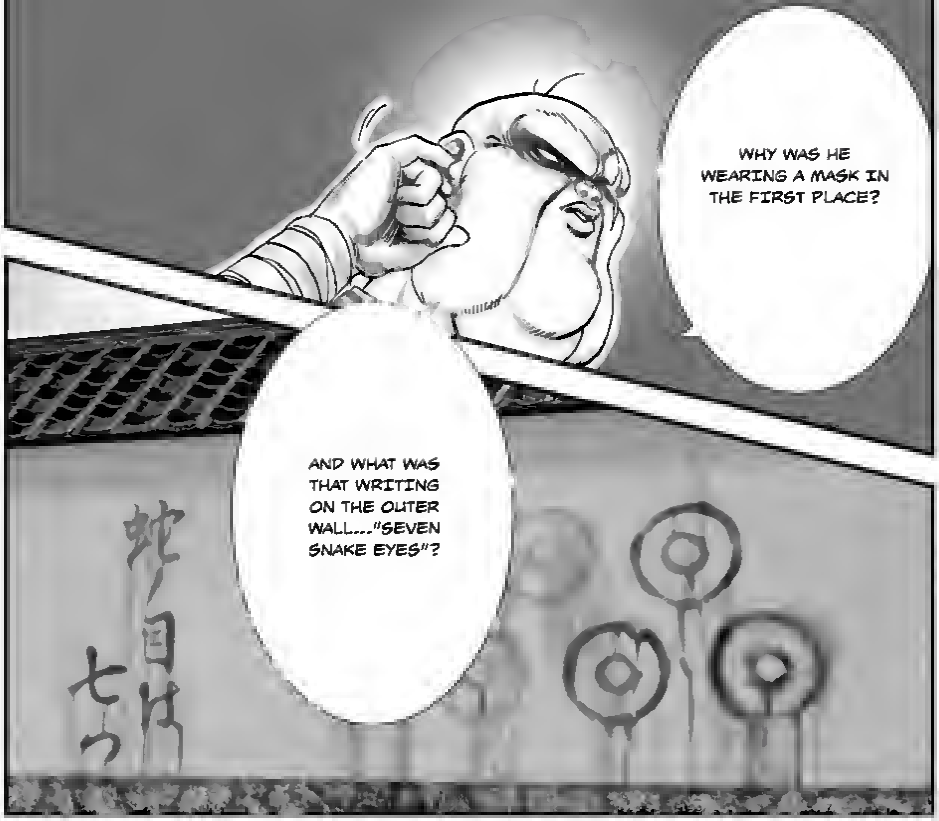
NO ONE IN THE HORI CLAN HAS SUCH SKILL!
IMPOSSIBLE!
AIZU/SEVEN SPEARS
KORO-GINSHIRO

YOU MEAN TO SAY THAT ONE OF THEM IS BEHIND THE MASK!
SHUT UP!
DRIP DRIP
YOU MONKEY!

HEHEH. THERE ARE THE SEVEN WOMEN WE LEFT AT THE CONVENT.
AIZU/SEVEN SPEARS
GUSOKUJYOHASHI

IRRITATED
...BUT...
WE'RE SURE IT WAS A MAN.

IF THE HORI WOMEN HIRED SOMEONE TO GET REVENGE...
AND IF THAT SOMEONE... WAS THE HANNYA MASK...
BUT MAGOBEI. IF HE BEAT YOU SO SOUNDLY
WHY DIDN'T HE...
HE COULD HAVE KILLED YOU.
DRIP
...I DON'T KNOW.
AIZU SEVEN SPEARS
WASHINOSU SENSUKE

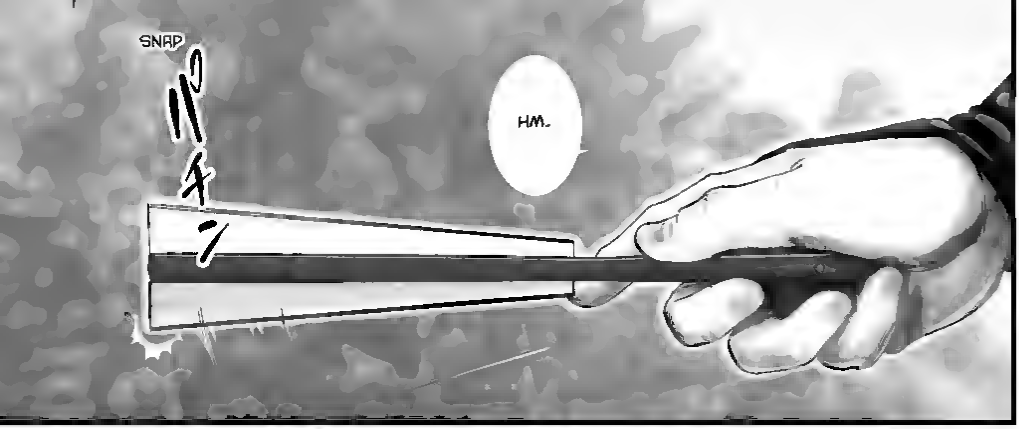

WHY WAS HE WEARING A MASK IN THE FIRST PLACE?
AND WHAT WAS THAT WRITING ON THE OUTER WALL....."SEVEN SNAKE EYES"?

ZA
ENOUGH!
WE'RE GETTING NOWHERE HERE!

.....
I DON'T KNOW.
DRIP
ポタッ

I'M GOING BACK TO KAMAKURA TO CHECK OUT THE CONVENT!
LEAVE EVERYTHING ELSE FOR LATER!
BAM
BAM
BAM
BAM
AH WELL.
IT DOESN'T MATTER WHO HELPS THEM.
THE KID HAS A SHORT TEMPER....
SOONER OR LATER...
GLANCE
DRIP

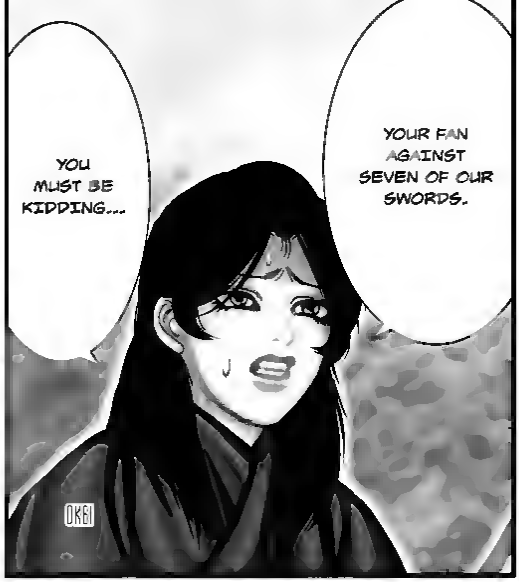
DRIP
THE HORI WOMEN WILL MEET THE SAME FATE.
SCRATCH
SCRATCH

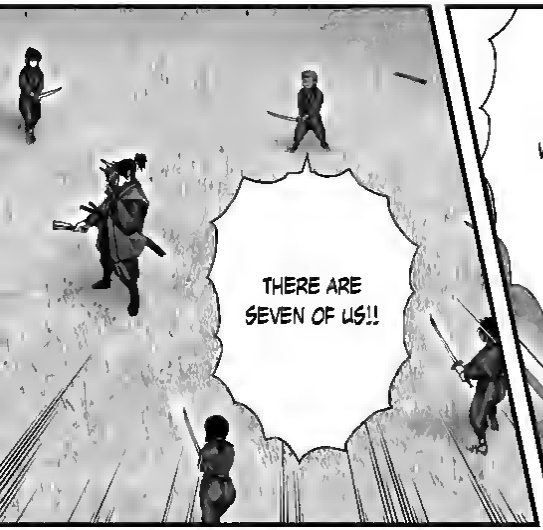

SNAP
HM.

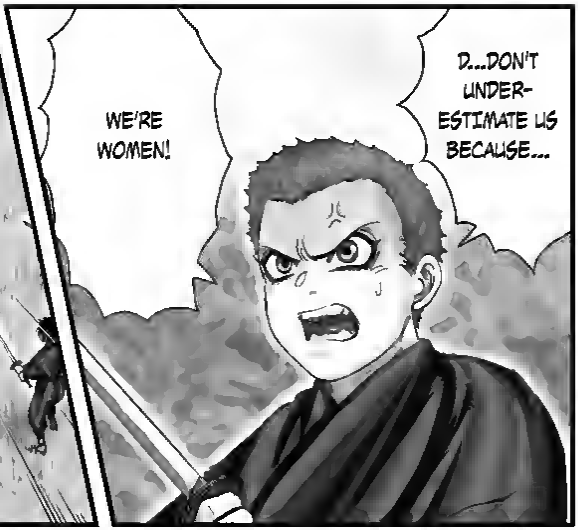
NOW... ALL SEVEN OF YOU.
ATTACK ME.

TH—THIS MUST BE...
SOME KIND OF BAD JOKE, MASTER JYÛBEI.
FWISH
DON'T WORRY. I'LL TAKE IT EASY ON YOU.
BUT...COME AT ME AS IF YOUR LIFE DEPENDED ON IT.

THINK OF ME AS ONE OF THE SEVEN SPEARS.


YOU MUST BE KIDDING...
YOUR FAN AGAINST SEVEN OF OUR SWORDS.
OKEI


THERE ARE SEVEN OF US!!


WE'RE WOMEN!
D...DON'T UNDER-ESTIMATE US BECAUSE...

MADAM SAKURA?

.....

SQUEEZE
DASH
HM....

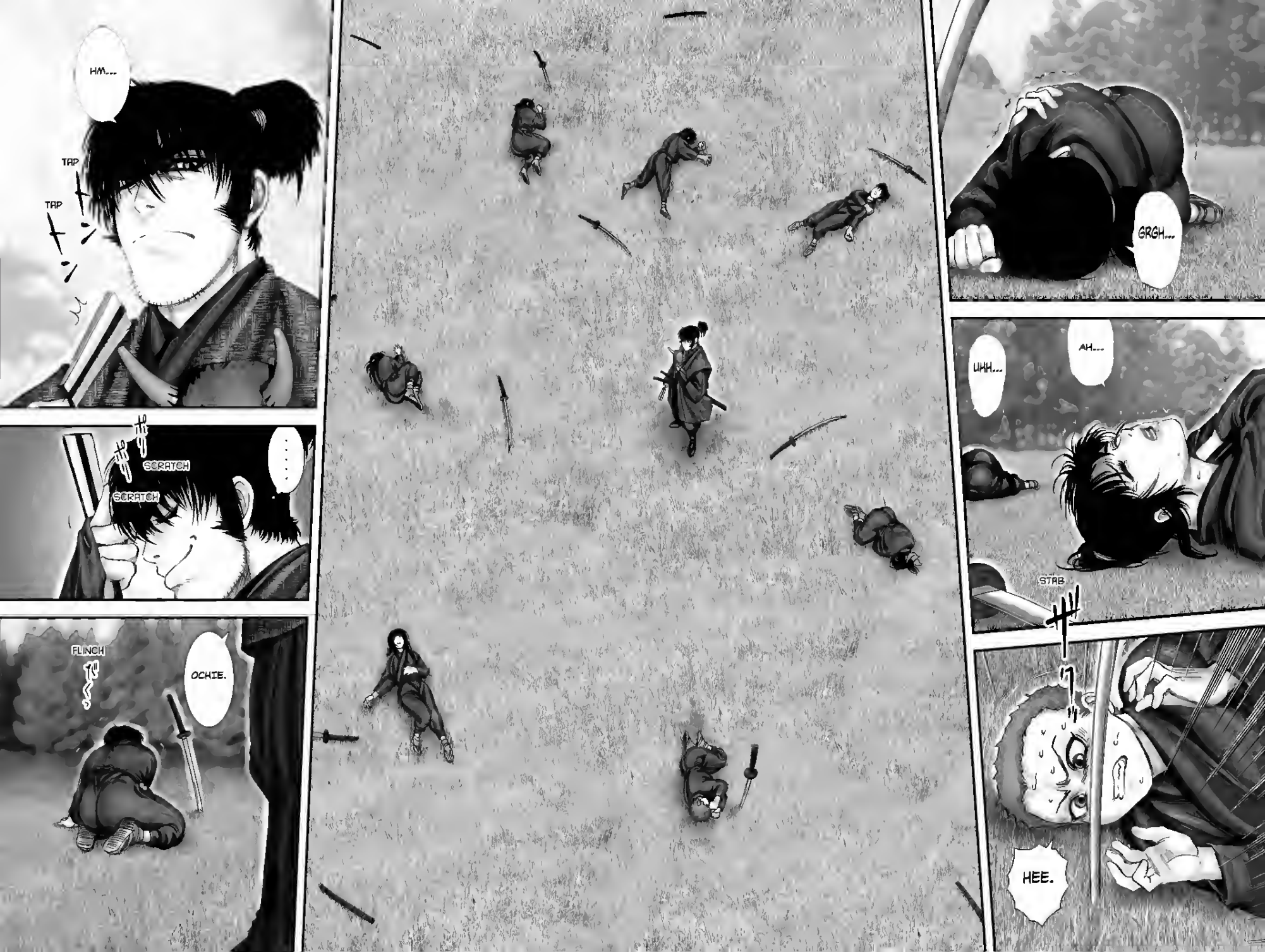
YAAAAA
ZAZA
SMACK
BAM
HGH.
PAN
BASSH

THUD
HRGH.
SQUEEZE
WH...
...WH.
STAB
WIPE

AG...
AGAIN PLEASE!!
HEH.
SMILE
I SAID
FOR ALL SEVEN OF YOU TO ATTACK AT THE SAME TIME...
DIDN'T I?

.....
COME AT ME!!
YOU IDIOTS!!
SQUEEZE
SHIVER
PUNCH

ZAZAZAZA
DAAAAAAA
WHISSH
WHISSH
WHISSH
GA
GRGH.
UH.
GAGA
OWW.


HM...
TAP
TAP
SCRATCH
SCRATCH
FLINCH
OCHIE.
GRGH...
UHH...
AH...
STAB
HEE.

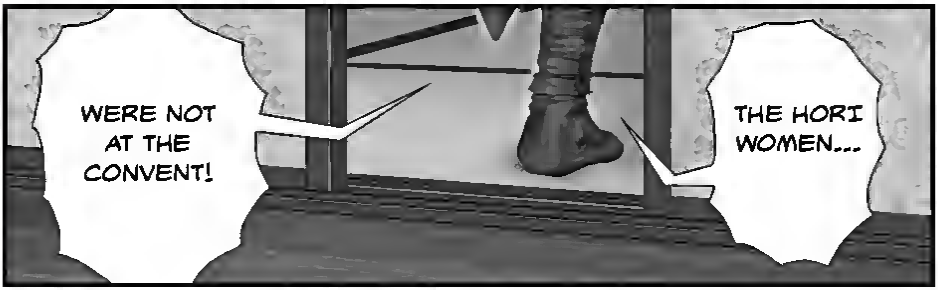
FROM NOW ON, WE'LL CONTINUE FREE-SPARRING
AND ADD EVASION TACTICS TO OUR LESSONS...
ALL RIGHT OCHIE?

HEH.
GOOD AN-SWER.

MASTER... JYÛBEI...
...Y ...YES.
STORY 8 END

DROP DROP

DAMMIT!


WERE NOT AT THE CONVENT!
THE HORI WOMEN...

LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE SERIOUS ABOUT GETTING REVENGE.
.....

THUD
I FOUND OUT THEY WERE HEADED FOR EDO.
BUT THEIR WHERE-ABOUTS ARE UN-KNOWN AFTER THAT!

SMILE
AN INTER-ESTING STORY TO DRINK TO.
DAMN THEM.

SO THEY SENT...
A MASKED INTRUDER AS THEIR OPENING MOVE.

SIP...

DRINK

SHINAGAWA TÔKAIJI TEMPLE PROPERTY
HARUSAME HERMITAGE

MADAM OSAWA SEWS VERY WELL.
HM.

OH, THE BEST IN AIZU.
O... OFUE...
BUT IT'S TRUE.
I REMEMBER YOUR HOUSE USED TO BE FILLED WITH OTHER PEOPLE'S
SEWING BECAUSE YOU COULDN'T SAY NO...
O... OTORI...

OH NO...
OSAWA
IT ONLY COMES WITH AGE.

OHHNOO! MADAM OSAWA'S TAILORING IS THE...
BEST IN ALL OF AIZU!
SMILE
SMILE

IS THIS HARD?
.....

PLEASE TRAIN US, SENSEI!!
NO! WE HAVEN'T ONCE THOUGHT THIS WAS HARD, NOT EVEN IN OUR DREAMS!!

OH, THE RAIN'S STOPPED. LET'S RESUME OUR TRAINING.
YES, SENSEI!

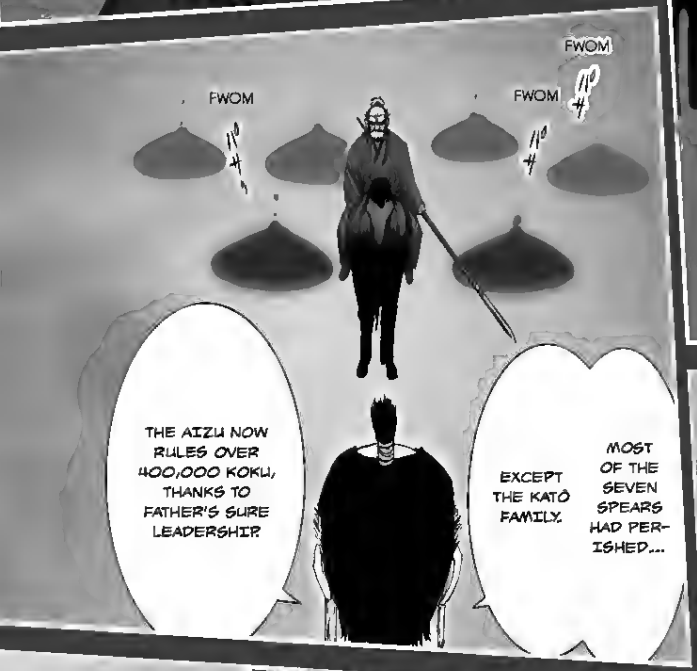
...A DREAM...

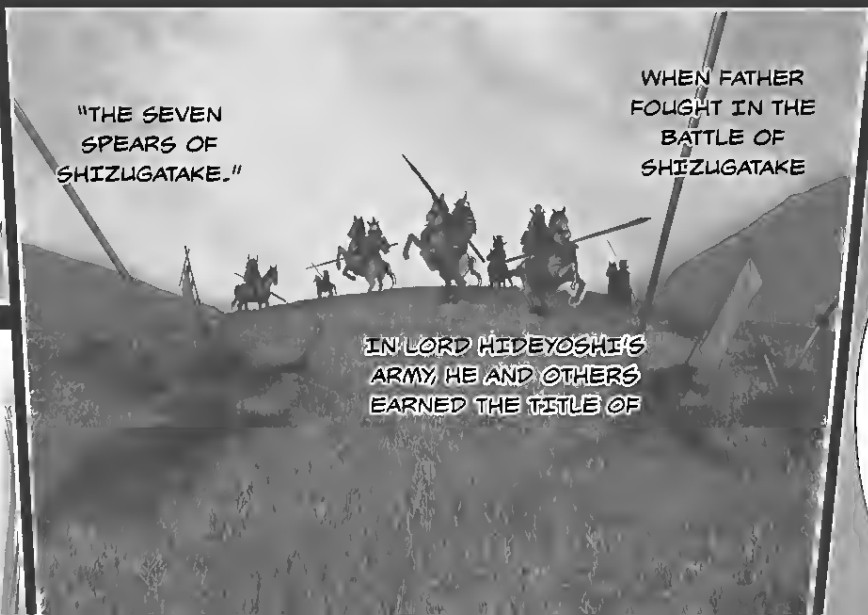
...AGAIN...

CLOP
ㅓ
"

...FATHER...
LORD YOSHIAKI.
AIZU CLAN HEAD KATÔ-AKIHARI

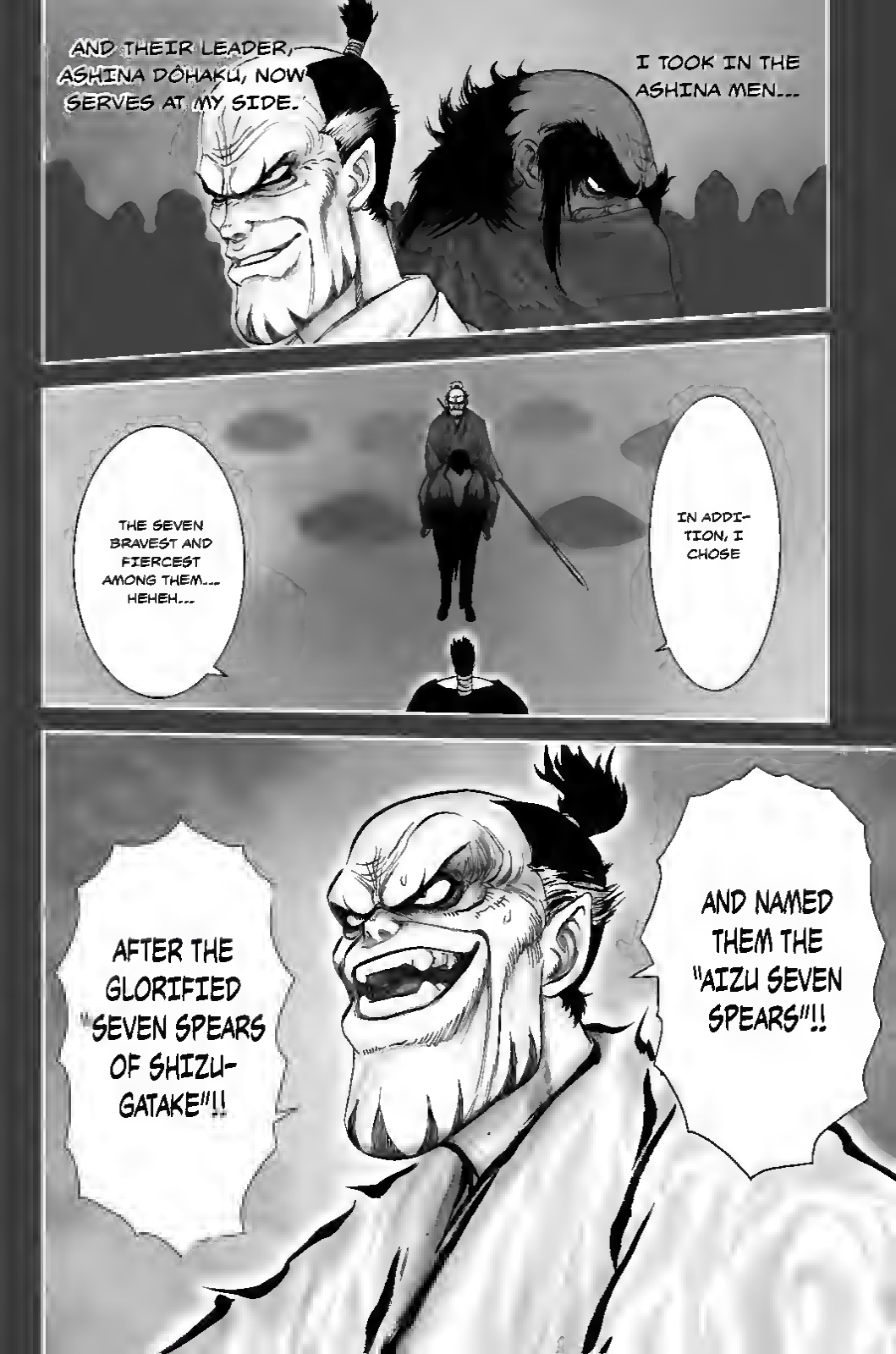
STORY 9: JYÛBEI, BASKET BUYER


FWOM
FWOM
FWOM
THE AIZU NOW RULES OVER 400,000 KOKU, THANKS TO FATHER'S SURE LEADERSHIP.
EXCEPT THE KATÔ FAMILY.
MOST OF THE SEVEN SPEARS HAD PERISHED...


"THE SEVEN SPEARS OF SHIZUGATAKE."
WHEN FATHER FOUGHT IN THE BATTLE OF SHIZUGATAKE
IN LORD HIDEYOSHI'S ARMY, HE AND OTHERS EARNED THE TITLE OF

I HAVE MY OWN MIND!!
MY OWN WAY OF GOVERNING!!
THE LIKES OF HORI MONDO.
REGARD ME AS A LESSER RULER COMPARED TO YOU...
FATHER.
DO YOU KNOW THE ASHINA CLAN?
SMILE
GRRR

BEFORE GAMÔ...
UESUGI... BEFORE DATE...
THE ASHINA HAD RULED AIZU...
BUT THEY WERE TOPPLED FROM POWER AND VANISHED.
THEN SIX OR SEVEN YEARS AGO.
GALLOP
I WAS OUT HAWK HUNTING.
AND WAS ATTACKED BY A SUSPICIOUS GROUP.
AND OUT OF NOWHERE...
SOMEONE CAME TO MY AID.
IT WAS THE ASHINA MEN.
IT WAS NEVER KNOWN
WHO HAD ATTACKED ME BUT...


AND THEIR LEADER, ASHINA DÔHAKU, NOW SERVES AT MY SIDE.
I TOOK IN THE ASHINA MEN...
THE SEVEN BRAVEST AND FIERCEST AMONG THEM... HEHEH...
IN ADDITION, I CHOSE
AFTER THE GLORIFIED "SEVEN SPEARS OF SHIZUGATAKE"!!
AND NAMED THEM THE "AIZU SEVEN SPEARS"!!

YANK
ALTHOUGH...
ONLY ONE OF THEM...WIELDS A SPEAR...

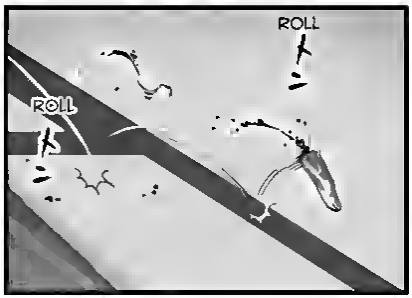
RIPPLE
ゆらっ
AND...
LICK
ぺろっ
ANYONE...
SUCK
ちゅぱっ
ANYONE WHO OPPOSES ME.
FADE
ゆら
FADE
ゆらっ
WHETHER IT BE AN AIZU CITIZEN...
OR ONE OF YOUR VASSALS...

WILL BE DELIVERED TO ME!!
CRUNCH
BY THE HANDS OF THE AIZU SEVEN SPEARS!!
BSSSHH
KYAAAH!
AAHHH!

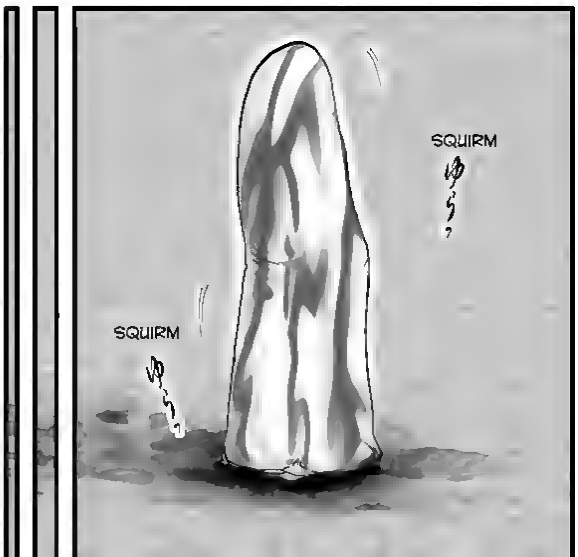
A...
AGH...
...UH
...H
GLARE

BRR
BRR
BRR
HEE.

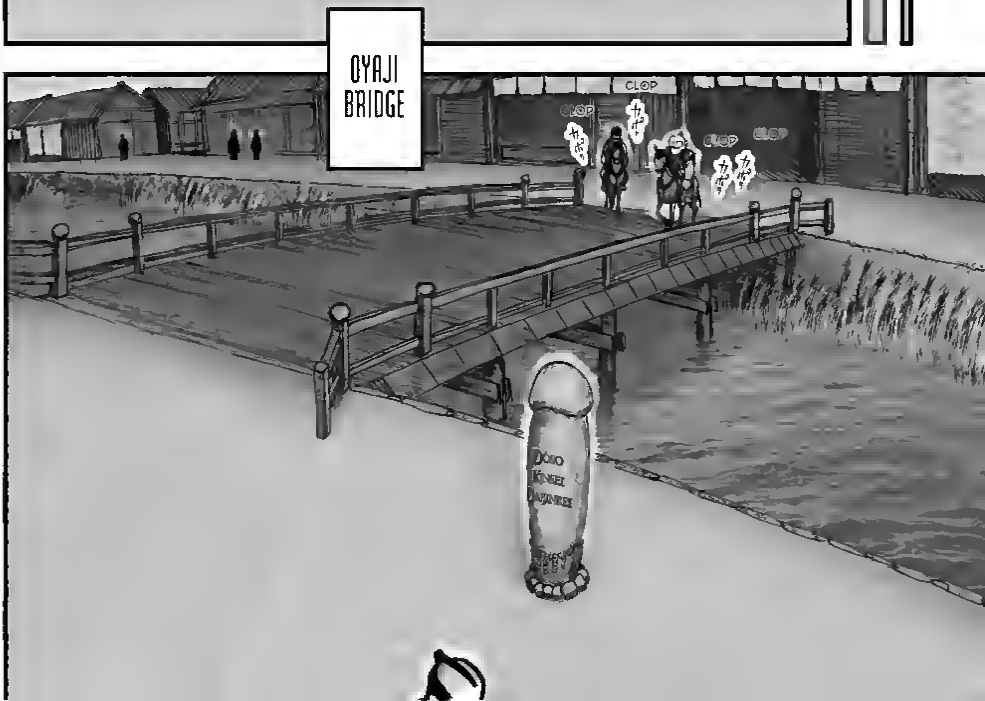
TAP

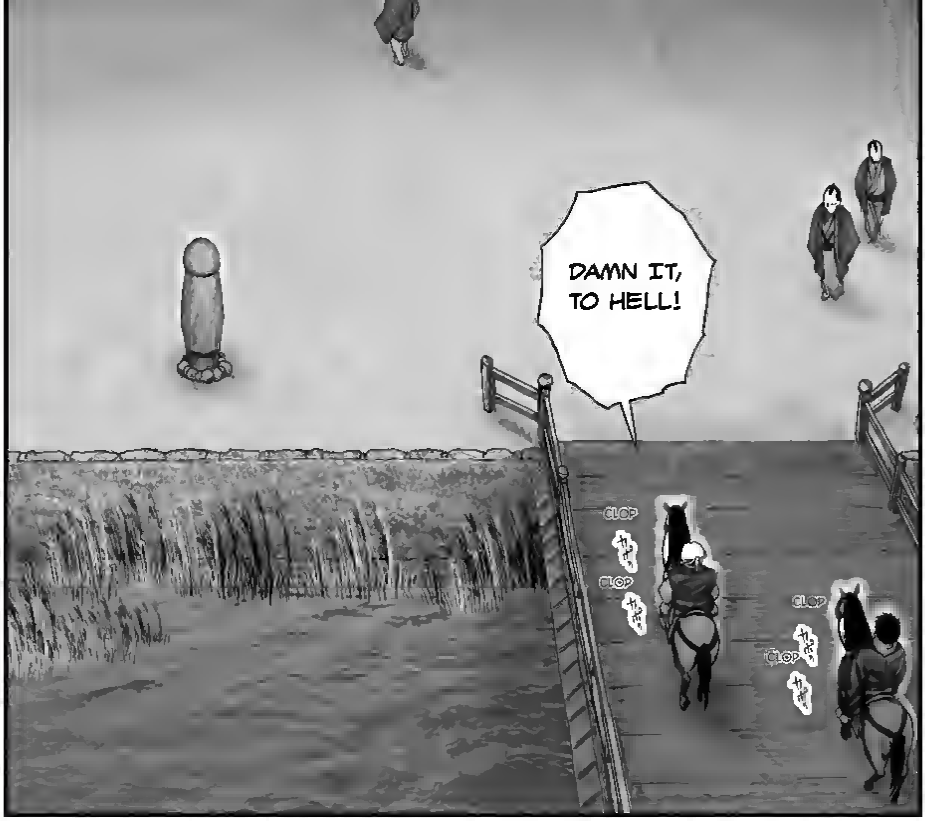

ROLL
ROLL

SPIT

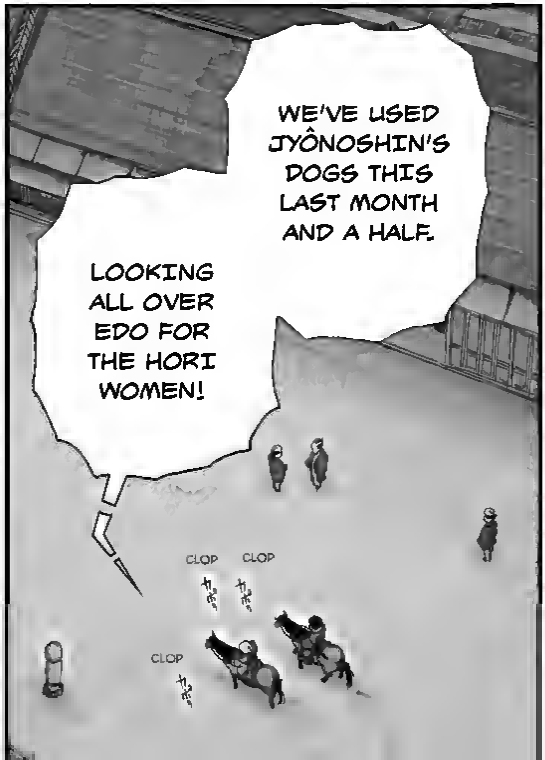

SQUIRM
SQUIRM

DÔSO
KINSEI
DAIJINREI

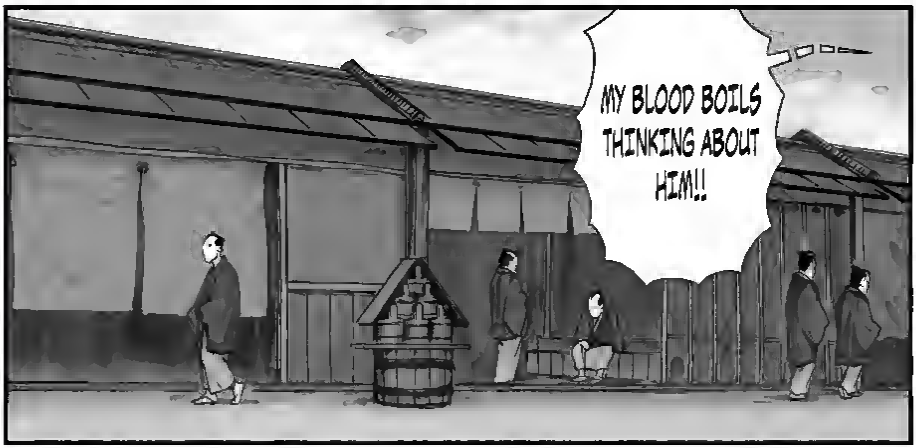

OYAJI
BRIDGE
CLOP
CLOP
CLOP
CLOP
DÔSO
KINSEI
DAIJINREI


DAMN IT, TO HELL!
CLOP
CLOP
CLOP
CLOP

WHERE ARE THEY HIDING!?
. . . . .
CLOP
CLOP
CLOP

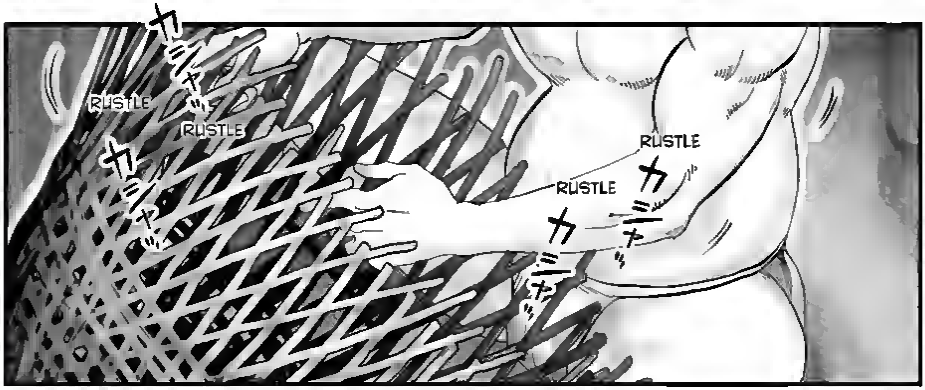

WE'VE USED JYÔNOSHIN'S DOGS THIS LAST MONTH AND A HALF.
LOOKING ALL OVER EDO FOR THE HORI WOMEN!
CLOP
CLOP
CLOP

SHUT UP!!
THE HANNYA MASK...
NOT TO MENTION...

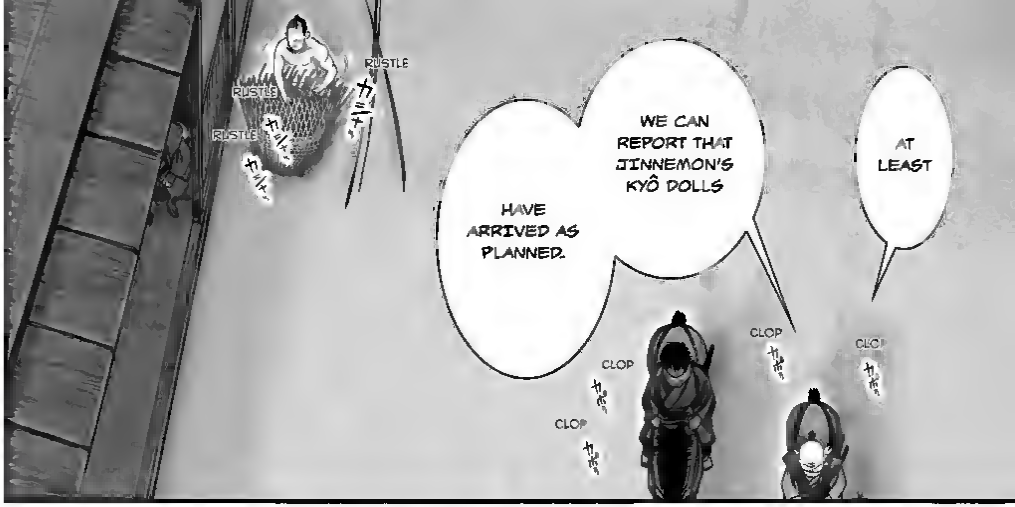

MY BLOOD BOILS THINKING ABOUT HIM!!

TO PROTECT THESE SEVEN HORI WOMEN.
THEN, I MUST GIVE MY LIFE...
THINKING BACK ON IT NOW.
WHEN WE HAD THE CHANCE.
WE SHOULD HAVE KILLED THE HORI WOMEN

IT'S BEEN TWO AND A HALF MONTHS SINCE THE INCIDENT AT THE CONVENT.
INDEED!
SPIT
THE SHOGUN HAS SAID NOTHING ABOUT IT! WE NEEDN'T HAVE WORRIED.
SHIT!

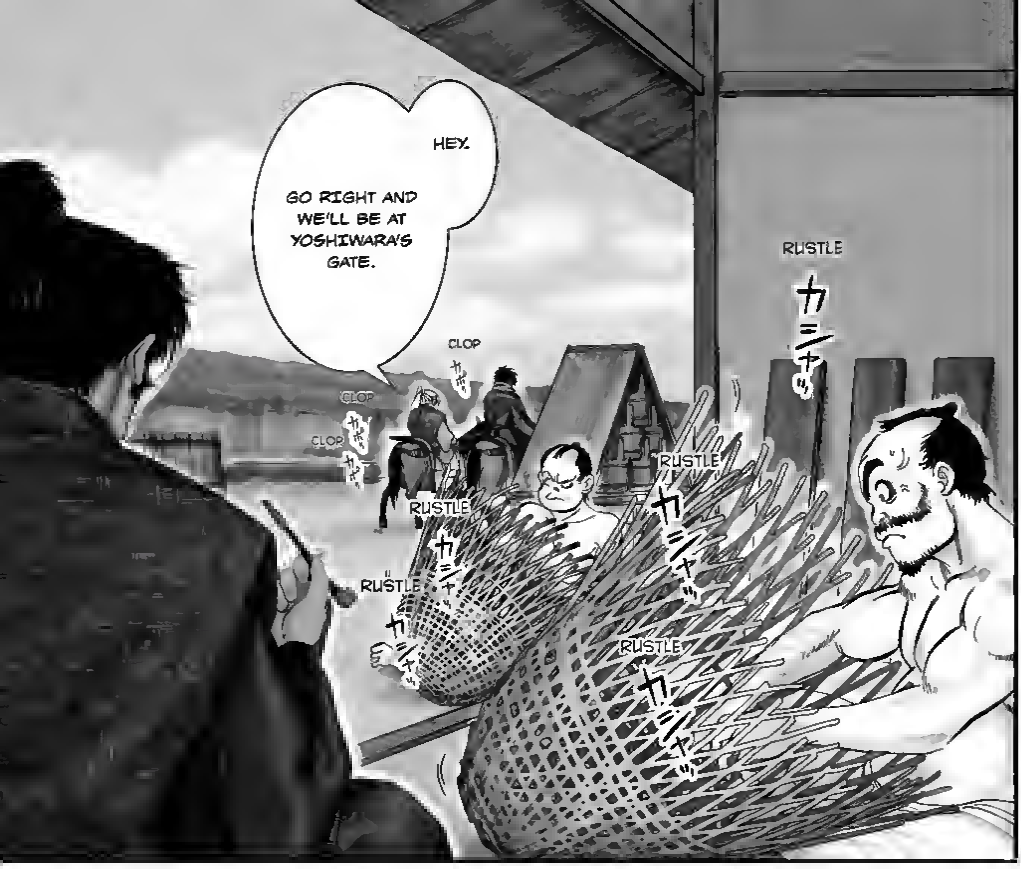

RUSTLE
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
RUSTLE

DON'T WANT TO WASTE MORE TIME LOOKING FOR THEM.
RIGHT. LORD AKINARI'S MOOD GROWS WORSE.
CLOP
CLOP
CLOP
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
RUSTLE


RUSTLE
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
AT LEAST
WE CAN REPORT THAT JINNEMON'S KYÔ DOLLS
HAVE ARRIVED AS PLANNED.
CLOP
CLOP
CLOP
CLOP

RUSTLE
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
CLOP
CLOP

GRIN
.....


HEY.
GO RIGHT AND WE'LL BE AT YOSHIWARA'S GATE.
CLOP
CLOP
CLOP
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
RUSTLE

HUH?
RUSTLE

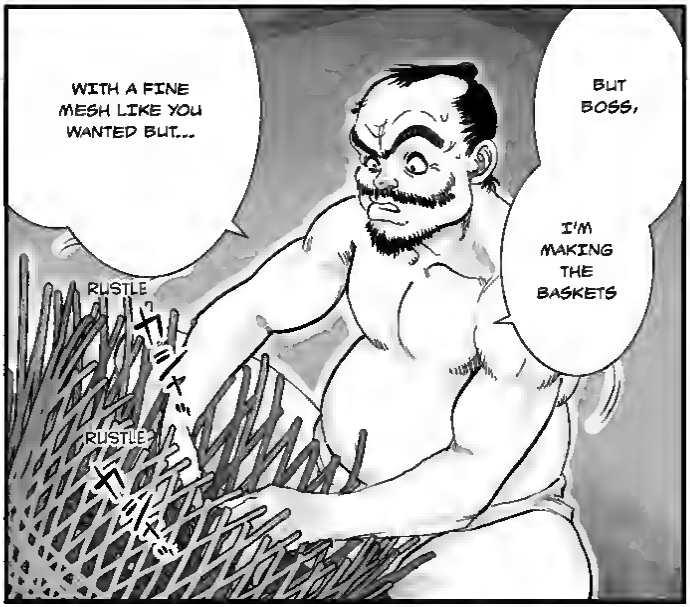
JUST AS I EXPECTED.
THEY'RE HERE...

JUST TALKING TO MYSELF.
PAY NO MIND, TUB-MAKER!
ALL RIGHT...

BUT...THE PUNISHMENT FOR MEN WHO CAN'T PAY FOR THE WOMEN'S SERVICES...
TRAPPING THEM UNDER A TUB AND LEAVING THEM OUT TO PUBLIC RIDICULE...
HEH-
VERY INTERESTING.

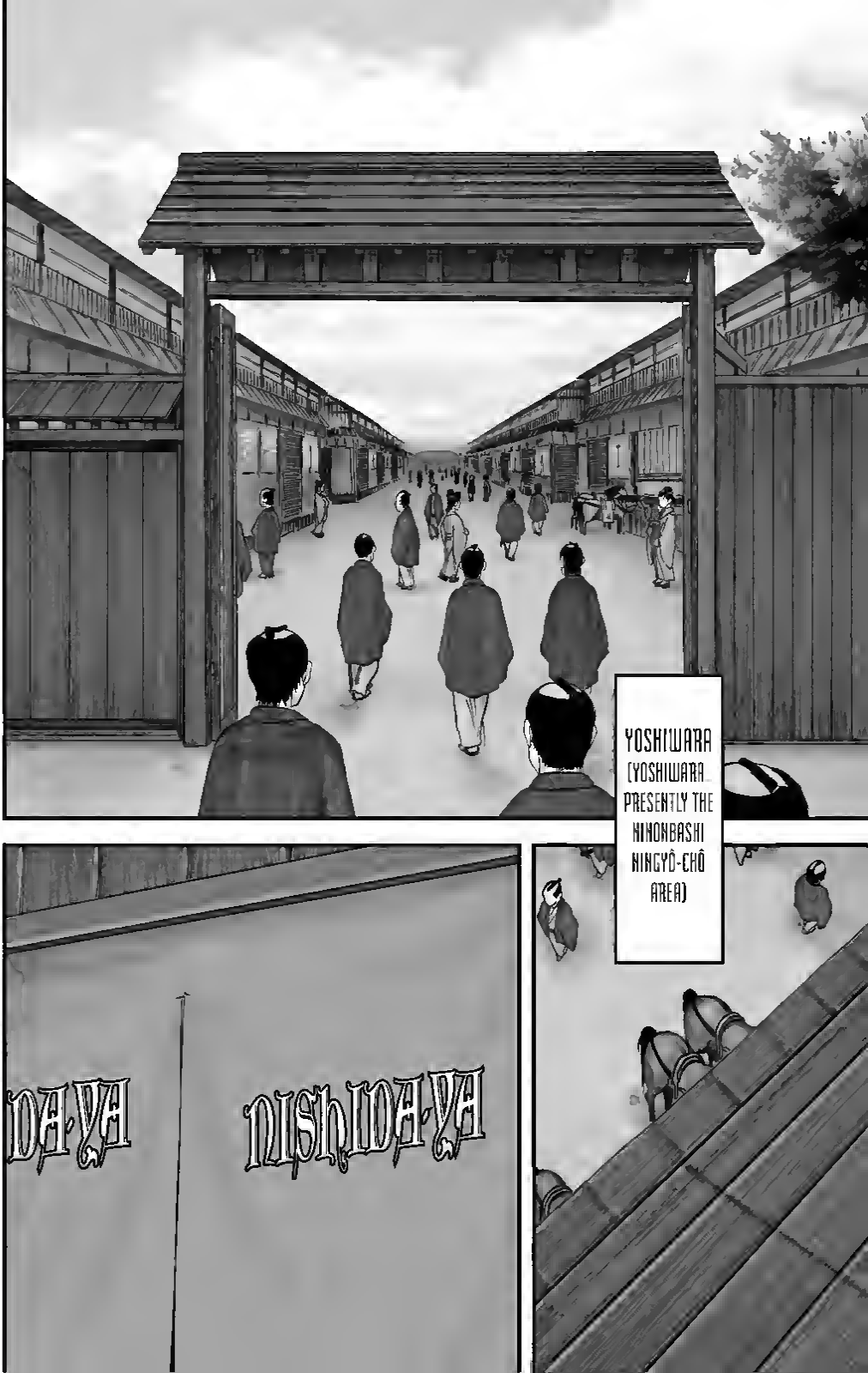
A LAW EVEN.
HEHEH.
RUSTLE
カミィ
YES.
THE "OKÉ-BUSE" IS A YOSHIWARA TRADITION.
RUSTLE
カミィ

I'M NOT REALLY A BASKET MAKER...

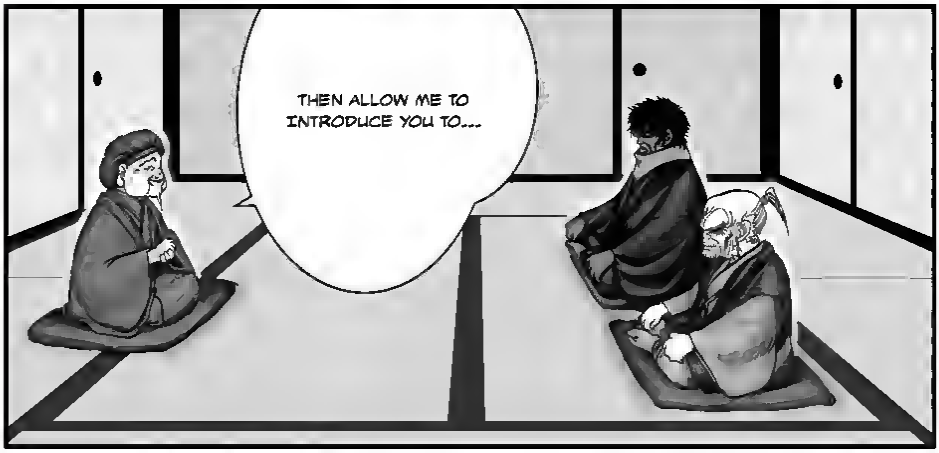

WITH A FINE MESH LIKE YOU WANTED BUT...
RUSTLE
カミィ
RUSTLE
カミィ
BUT BOSS,
I'M MAKING THE BASKETS

BUT WHAT DO YOU PLAN TO DO WITH THEM?
NOT THAT I DON'T APPRECIATE THE MONEY...

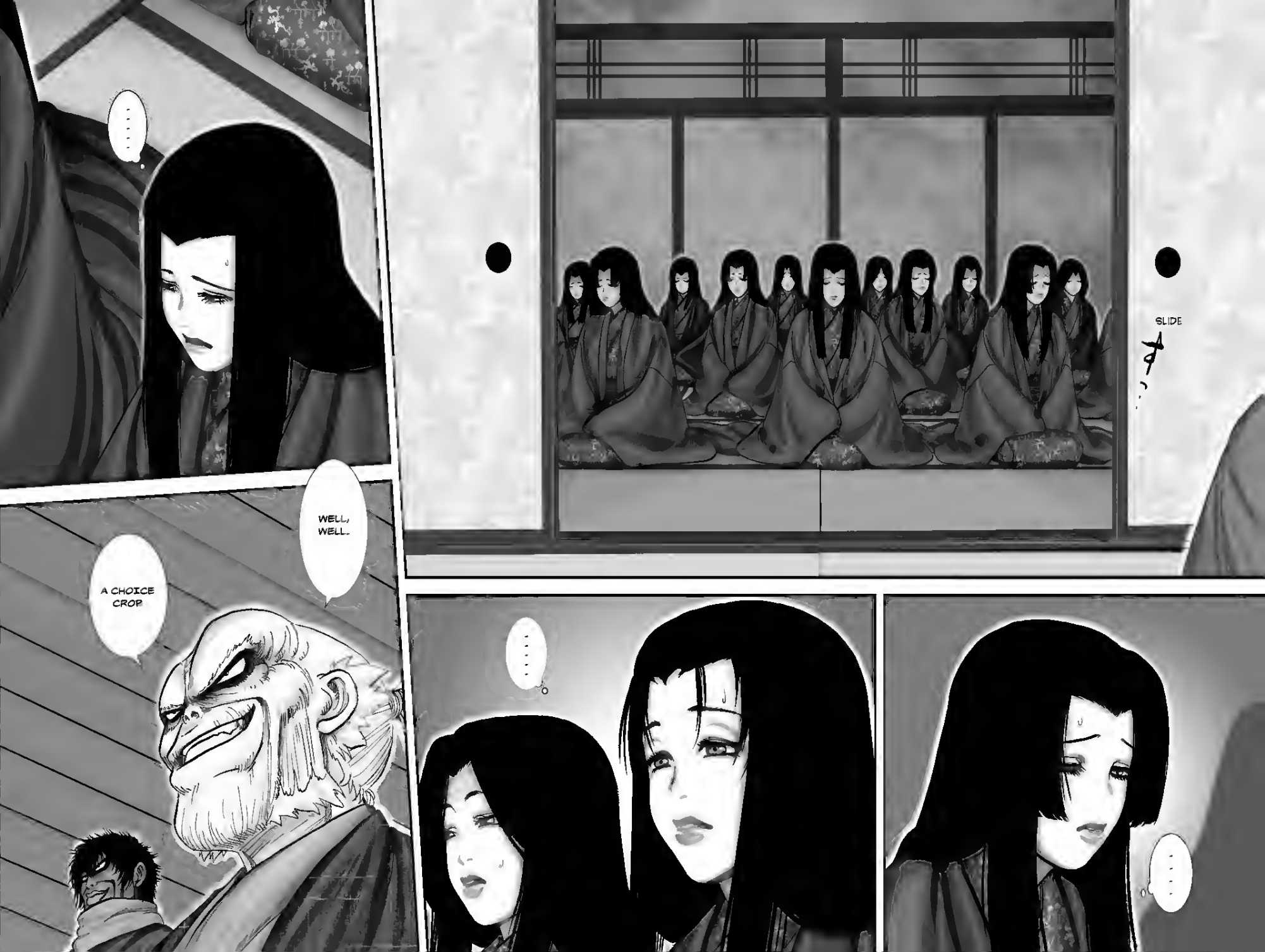
.....
CATCHING A MONSTER IN "OKÉ-BUSÉ."
I'M THINKING OF...
HEH.
GRIN
A...M... MONSTER... REALLY...?
HEY BOSS, DON'T STOP! KEEP GOING!


YOSHIWARA
(YOSHIWARA PRESENTLY THE NIHONBASHI NINGYÔ-CHÔ AREA)
NISHIDA-YA
NISHIDA-YA

WE'VE BEEN WAITING, JINNEMON.


THEN ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE YOU TO...

NISHIDA-YA BROTHEL OWNER
SHÔJI JINNEMON
THIS YEAR'S CROP OF KYÔ DOLLS.
SLIDE
SMILE
SMILE


.....
WELL, WELL..
A CHOICE CROP
SLIDE
.....
.....

SMILE
ニヤッ

AND THEY'RE ALL VIRGINS.
KYÔ DOLLS.
SQUEEZE
もみ
SQUEEZE
もみ
STORY 9 END

厳衛生

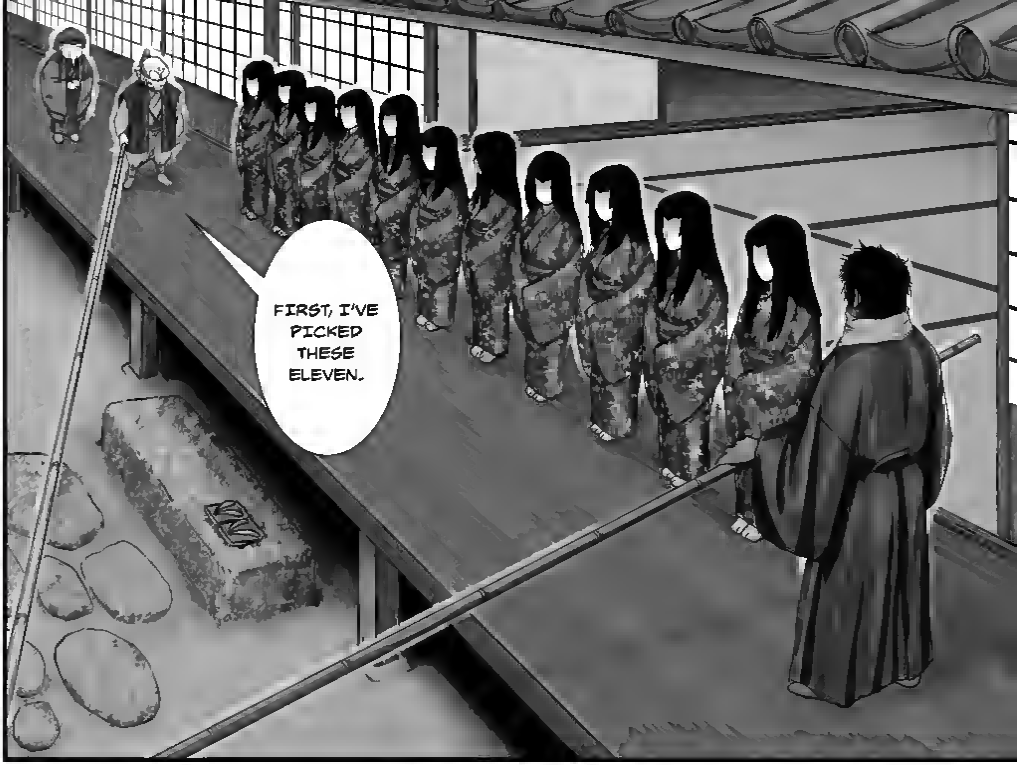
KYÔ DOLLS.
SQUEEZE
SQUEEZE
もみ
もみ

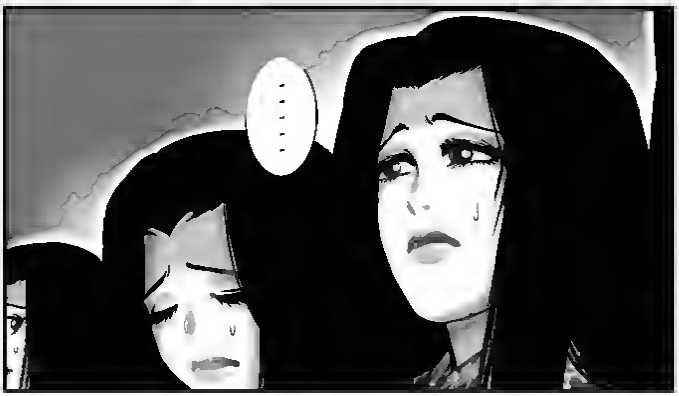
WELL, WELL.
A CHOICE CROP.

THEY RE ALL VIRGINS.

AS YOU CAN SEE...
THEY ARE ALL WEARING THE SAME DRESS...
BUT.
. . .
STORY 10: BIDDING AT YOSHIWARA

WILL YOU SELL ME SIX FOR THE PRICE OF FIVE?
IF I CHOOSE THE SIX CORRECTLY
JINNEMON
TURN
IS THAT ALL RIGHT?
I'VE ASKED THEM NOT TO SPEAK DURING THE BIDDING...
AS YOU REQUESTED...
THERE ARE EXACTLY SIX GIRLS OF NOBLE BIRTH AMONG THEM.
?
HM...
MASTER TESSAI?
CAN YOU PICK THEM OUT,
OH HO!
INTERESTING!
I WILL AGREE TO THE WAGER!
THIS WILL BE A SIGHT TO SEE.
CLAP
FINE...IF I LOSE, I'LL PAY DOUBLE! HOW'S THAT?
HEH... ALL RIGHT.
SMILE


FIRST, I'VE PICKED THESE ELEVEN.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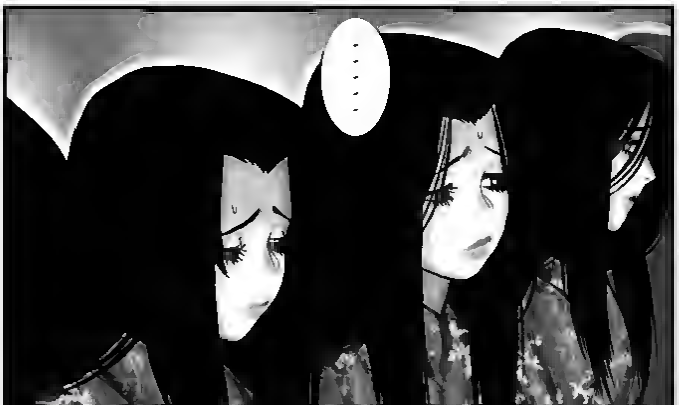
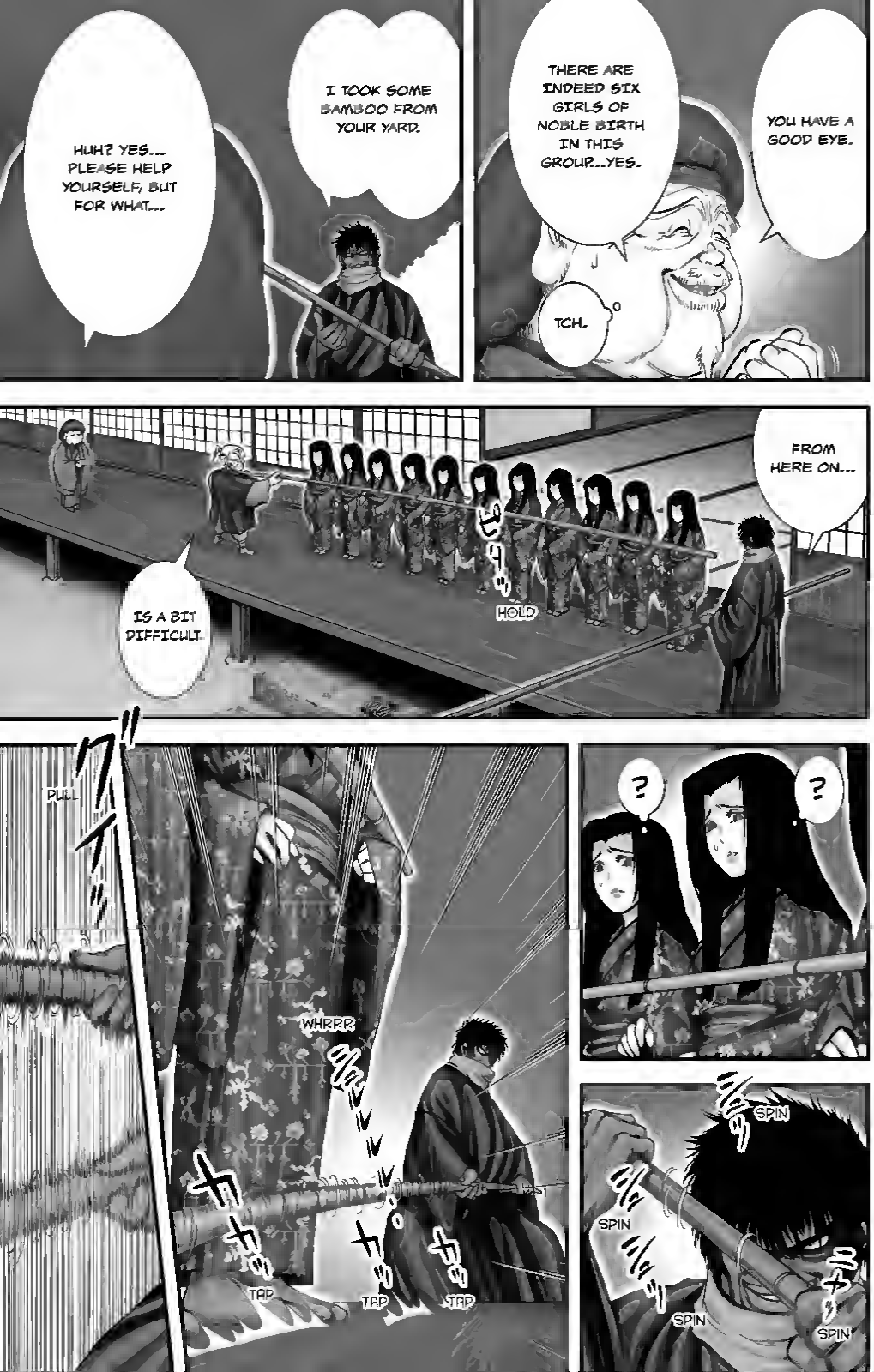
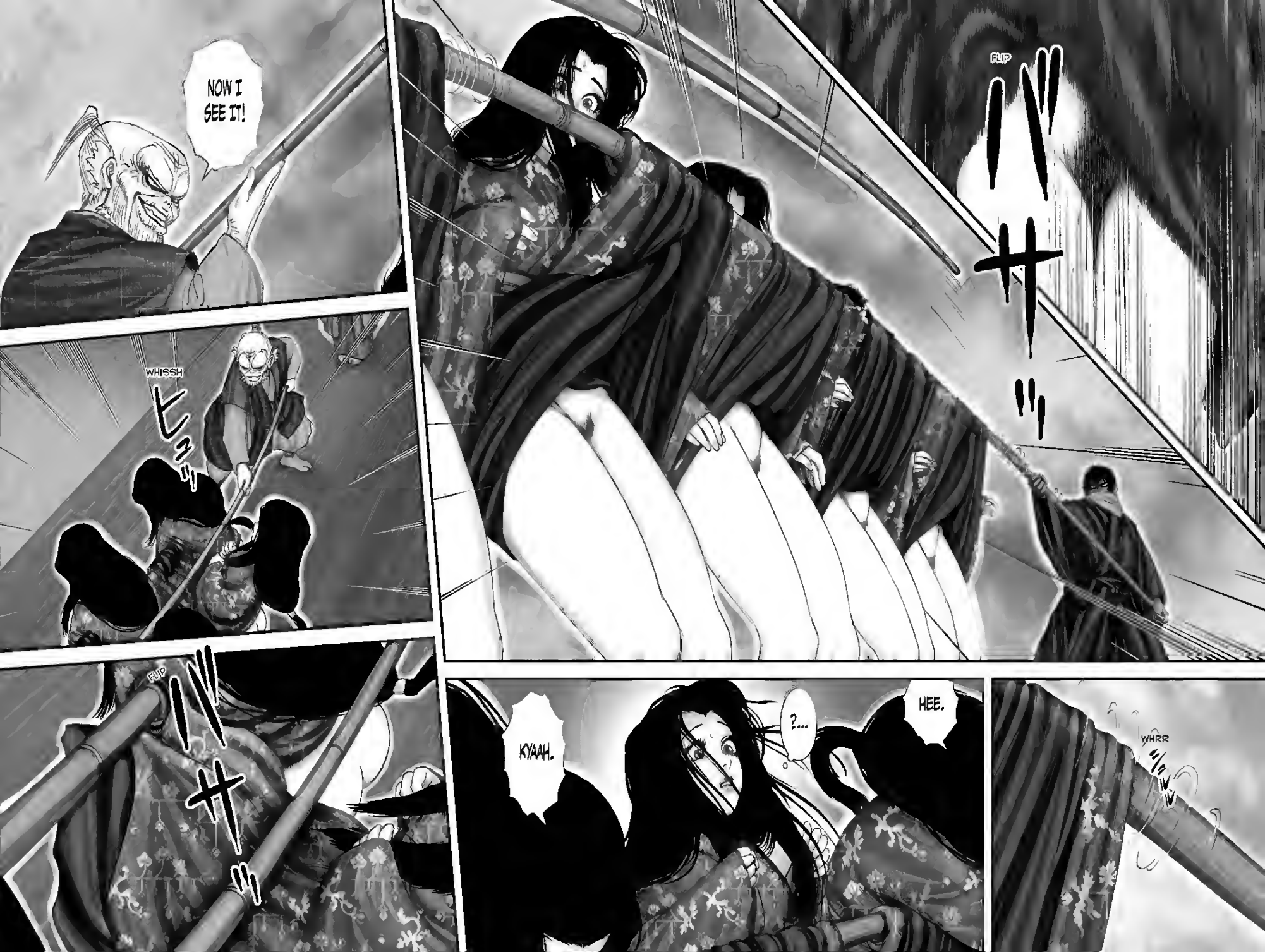
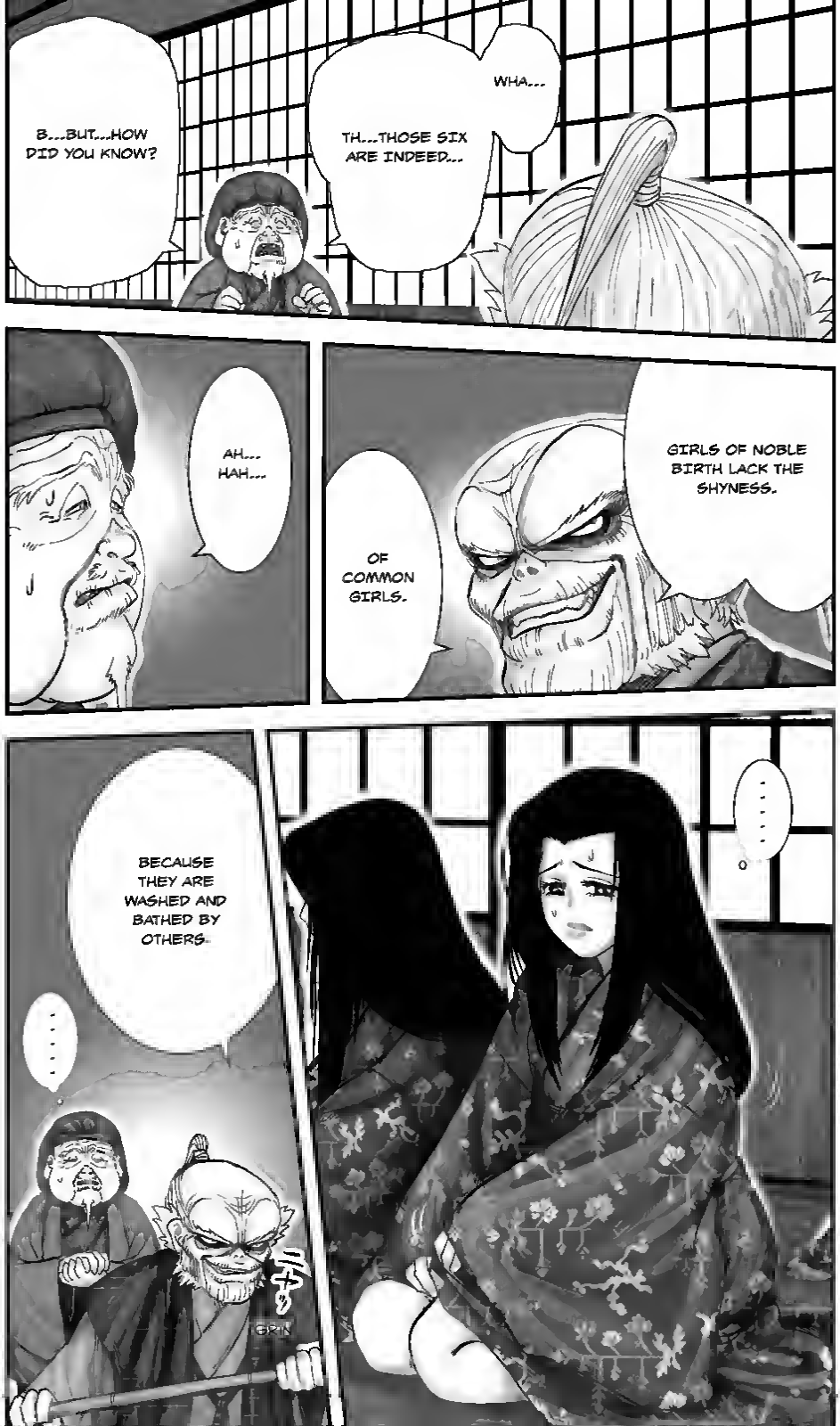

.....

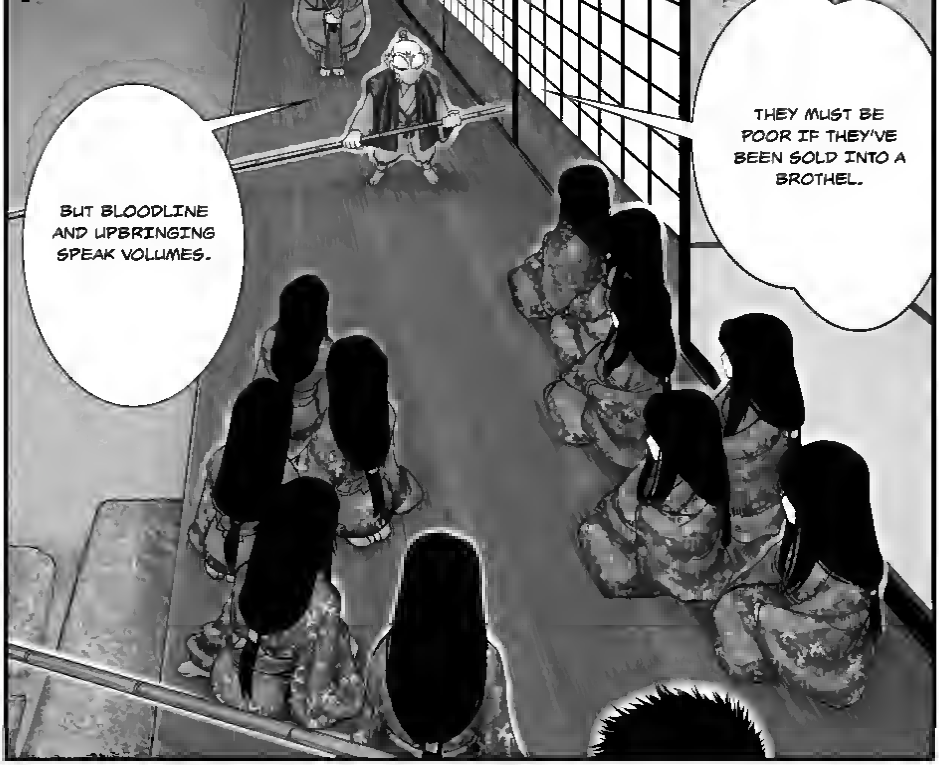
HOW AM I DOING SO FAR JINNEMON?
YES.

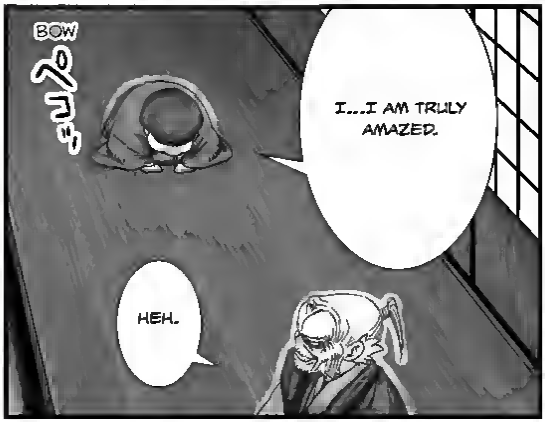

I TOOK SOME BAMBOO FROM YOUR YARD.
HUH? YES... PLEASE HELP YOURSELF, BUT FOR WHAT...
YOU HAVE A GOOD EYE.
THERE ARE INDEED SIX GIRLS OF NOBLE BIRTH IN THIS GROUP...YES.
TCH.
FROM HERE ON...
HOLD
IS A BIT DIFFICULT.
?
?
PULL
WHRRR
TAP
TAP
TAP
SPIN
SPIN
SPIN
SPIN


NOW I SEE IT!
WHISSH
FLIP
FLIP
KYAAH.
?...
HEE.
WHRR

THUD
FLOP
FLOP
THESE SIX THAT FELL ON THEIR ASSES ARE OF NOBLE BIRTH!
FLAIL
FLAIL
AM I WRONG? JINNEMON.

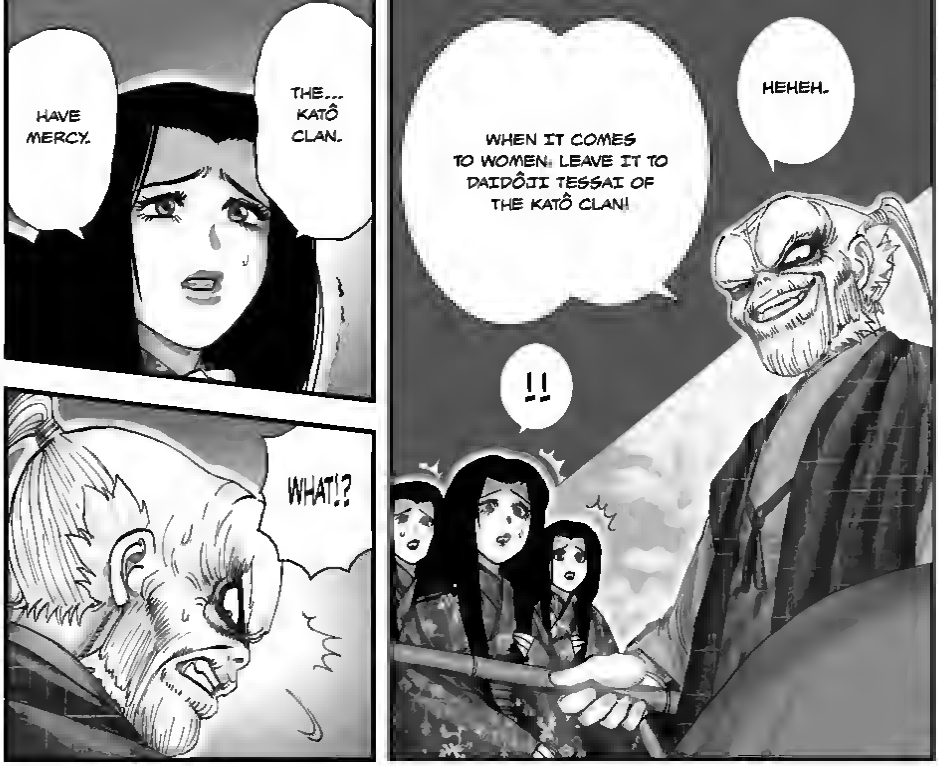

B...BUT...HOW DID YOU KNOW?
WHA...
TH...THOSE SIX ARE INDEED...
AH... HAH...
GIRLS OF NOBLE BIRTH LACK THE SHYNESS.
OF COMMON GIRLS.
BECAUSE THEY ARE WASHED AND BATHED BY OTHERS.
.....
.....
ERIN

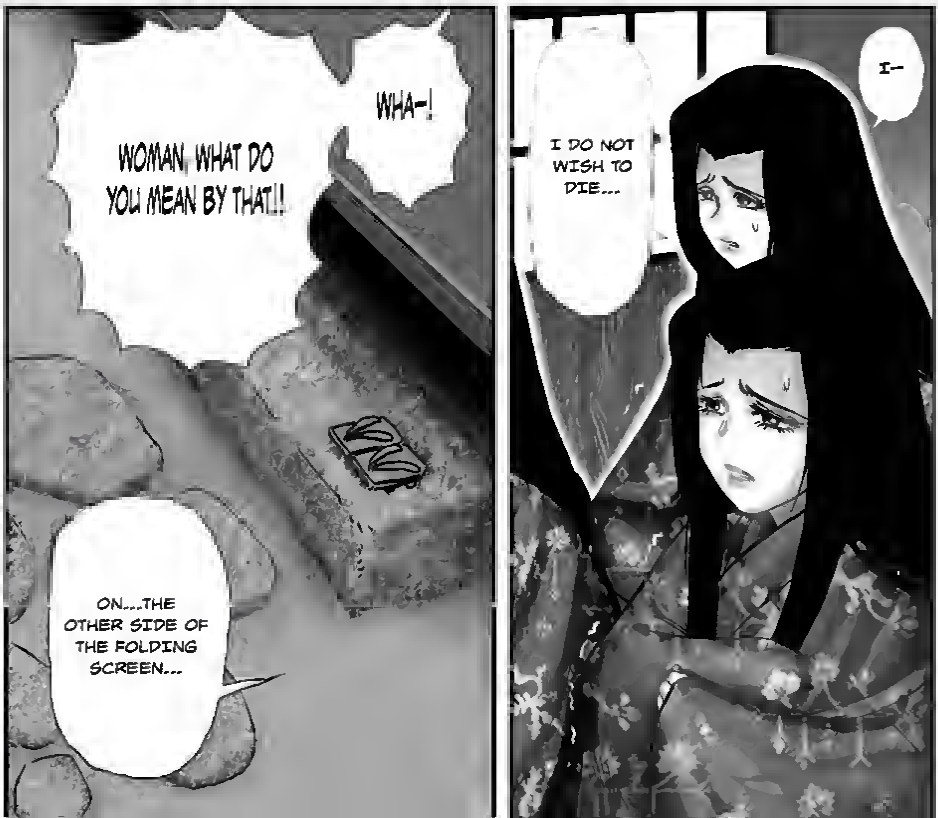

BUT BLOODLINE AND UPBRINGING SPEAK VOLUMES.
THEY MUST BE POOR IF THEY'VE BEEN SOLD INTO A BROTHEL.


BOW
I...I AM TRULY AMAZED.
HEH.

JINNEMON.
I MERELY CHOSE THE SIX WHO WERE SLOW TO COVER THEM-SELVES.
SMIRK

WH...WHAT A MESS...
I CAN'T BELIEVE HE DID IT...SHIT.

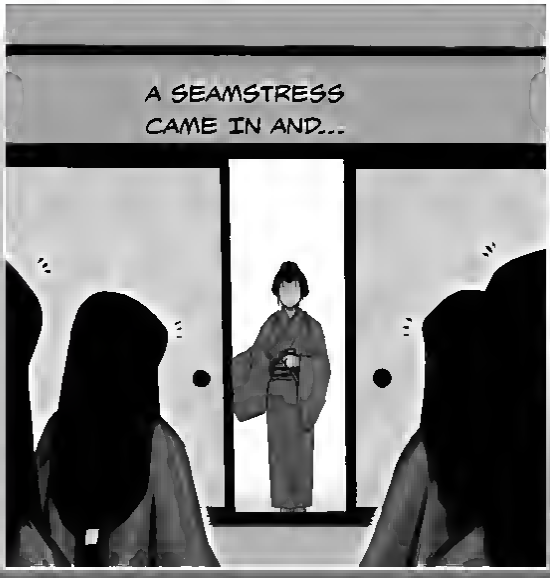

HAVE MERCY.
THE... KATÔ CLAN.
WHAT!?
WHEN IT COMES TO WOMEN, LEAVE IT TO DAIDÔJI TESSAI OF THE KATÔ CLAN!
HEHEH.
!!


WOMAN, WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT!!
WHA-!
ON...THE OTHER SIDE OF THE FOLDING SCREEN...
I DO NOT WISH TO DIE...
I-

THE WOMEN BOUGHT AND KILLED BY THE AIZU KATÔ FAMILY NUMBER IN THE TENS OF DOZENS.

会津加藤家に
売られて
殺された女人
幾十人に
なるかを知らず

WHO DID THIS!
AND WHEN!?
FLINCH
幾十人に


A SEAMSTRESS CAME IN AND...

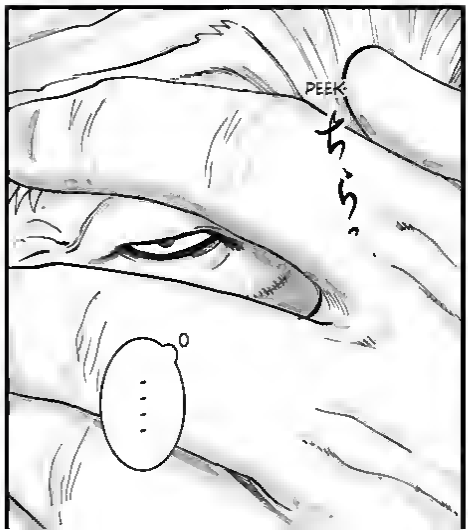
A BIT EARLIER, BEFORE YOU ARRIVED...

SU
IN NO TIME AT ALL...

THE MASTER TOLD US NOT TO SPEAK TODAY...
B-BUT.
OH!

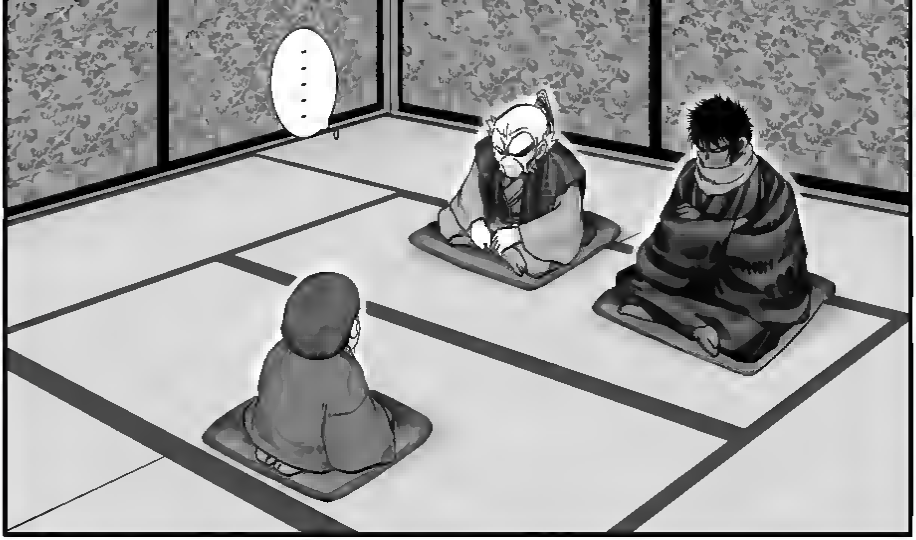
FLINCH
IDIOT! WHY DIDN'T YOU SAY SOONER!!
BAM

SMACK
OWWWW...


PEEK
...

FIND THE SEAMSTRESS AND BRING HER TO ME!!
JINNEMON!

JINNEMON!!
会津加藤家に
売られて
殺されし女人
幾十人に
PEEK
ちらっ
WILL YOU JOIN ME.
IN THE OTHER ROOM...
.....


.....

DON'T BE RIDICULOUS!
OF COURSE NOT!
GRRR

COULD IT BE TRUE?
THOSE WORDS WRITTEN ON THE DOOR...

JINNEMON...
.....
DO YOU MEAN TO MAKE AN ENEMY OF THE KATÔ FAMILY?

HM...
IS THAT SO...

BUT WHEN IT COMES TO THE KYÔ GIRLS SENT TO THE KATÔ FAMILY...
NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT...I'VE HAD NO PROBLEMS WITH THE OTHER GIRLS.

I HAD ALWAYS THOUGHT THAT TO BE STRANGE.
I NEVER HEAR FROM THEM AGAIN.

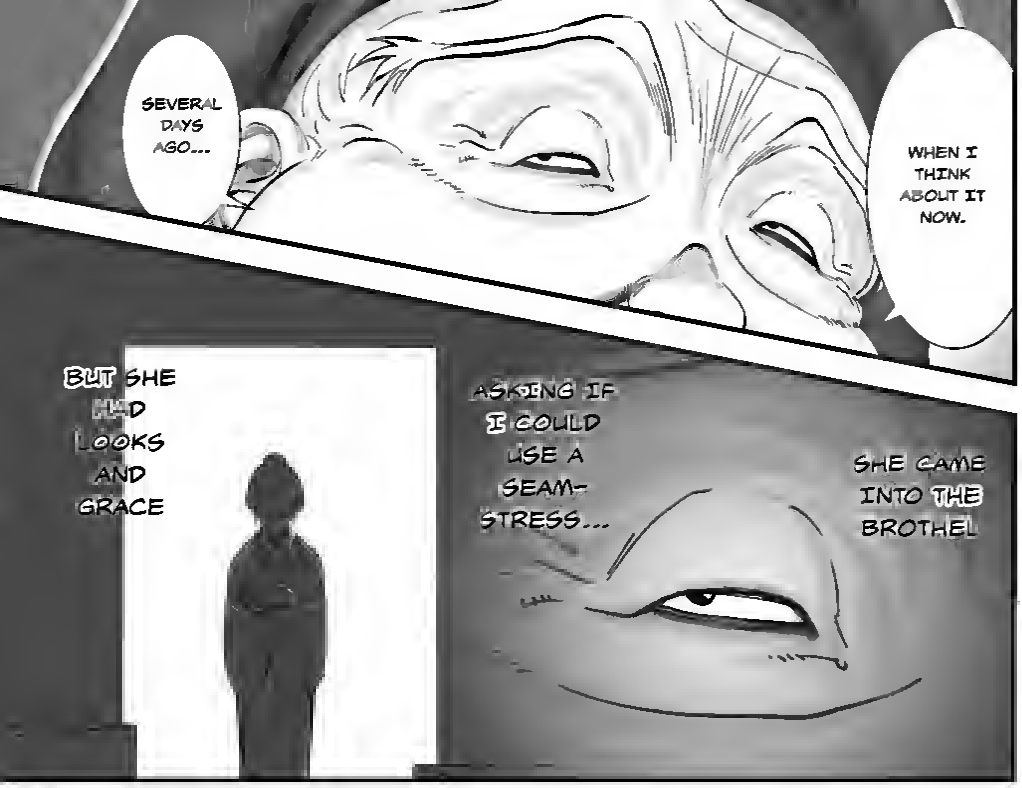
BASTARD.

IS OUR BUSINESS!
WHAT OF IT! WHAT WE DO WITH BOUGHT GOODS...

AS SOON AS THEY ARE BOUGHT.
YES, WELL, THAT'S RIGHT...BUT NATURALLY I FEEL RELUCTANT WHEN I HEAR THAT MY HIGH-QUALITY GIRLS ARE BEING RUINED

JINNEMON.
THAT SEAMSTRESS...
SU
WHAT.
ZUI

HOW MUCH DOES THIS BASTARD KNOW?
WHO IS SHE?


SEVERAL DAYS AGO...
WHEN I THINK ABOUT IT NOW.
BUT SHE HAD LOOKS AND GRACE
ASKING IF I COULD USE A SEAM-STRESS...
SHE CAME INTO THE BROTHEL

THE WRITING ON THE DOOR IS PROBABLY HER DOING.

SO,
WHERE IS SHE NOW?

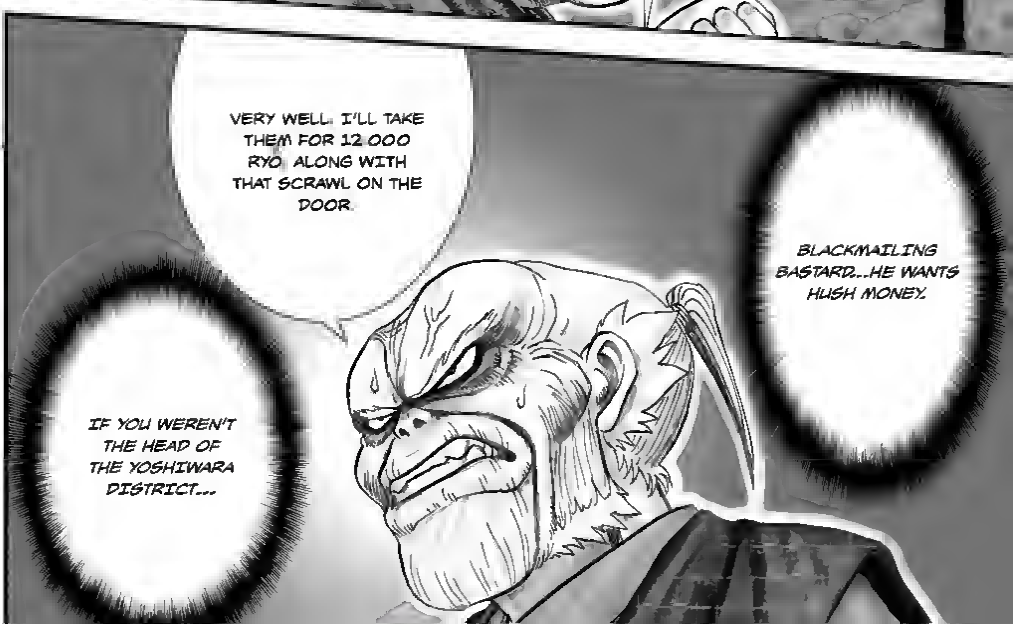
AN ORDINARY SEAM-STRESS.
QUITE UNLIKE

I ASKED MY ASSISTANT BEFORE COMING TO MEET YOU HERE...
IT SEEMS SHE'S DISAPPEARED
I'VE POSTED A LOOKOUT AT THE MAIN GATE...
BUT SHE IS PROBABLY GONE BY NOW.
WHAT WAS HER NAME... OAMA.
AMA!!
OAMA?
AMA...
HUH?
JINNEMON,
WHO DO YOU THINK SHE WAS?

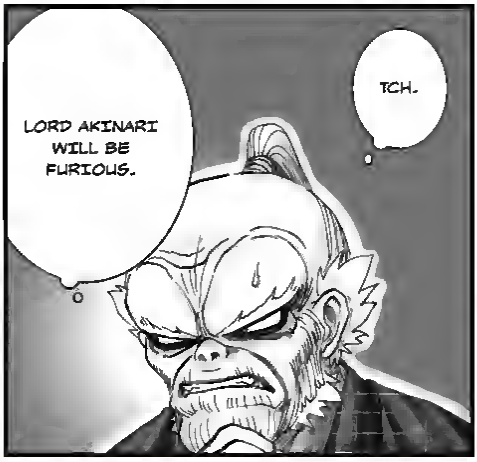
PERHAPS... A RELATIVE OF ONE OF THE GIRLS RUINED BY THE KATÔ FAMILY?
OH, YOU THINK SO, TOO.
GOOD, HE DOESN'T KNOW THE MATTER WITH THE HORI WOMEN.
SO JINNEMON, WILL YOU SELL US YOUR GIRLS? OR NOT?
ONE GIRL AT 2,000 RYÔ, SIX ALTOGETHER...
WILL BE 12,000 RYÔ.

*2,000 ryo: At the time, the annual salary of a maid or servant was one ryo

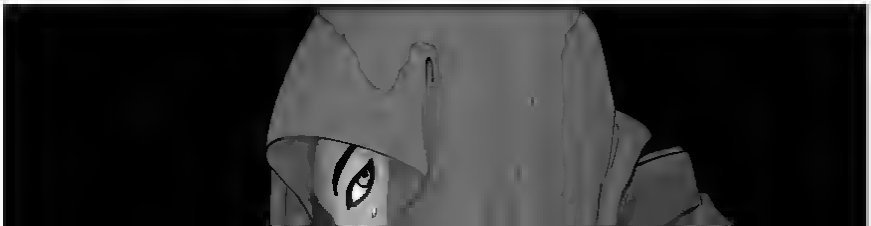
THERE WOULD BE BIG TROUBLE. WHAT DO YOU SAY MASTER TESSAI?
IF SOMEONE WERE TO START A RUMOR THAT THE KATÔ FAMILY WAS KILLING OFF INNOCENT GIRLS...

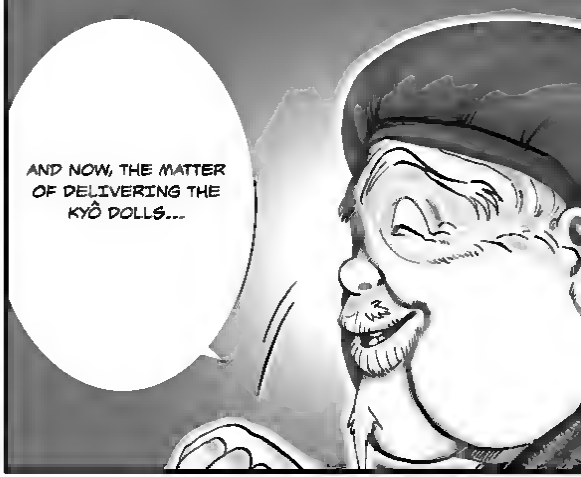

VERY WELL. I'LL TAKE THEM FOR 12,000 RYO, ALONG WITH THAT SCRAWL ON THE DOOR.
BLACKMAILING BASTARD...HE WANTS HUSH MONEY.
IF YOU WEREN'T THE HEAD OF THE YOSHIWARA DISTRICT...

SMACK
SOLD!
IT IS DONE.
OH?
WHAT SCRAWL WAS THAT?
BOW
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.


TCH.
LORD AKINARI WILL BE FURIOUS.

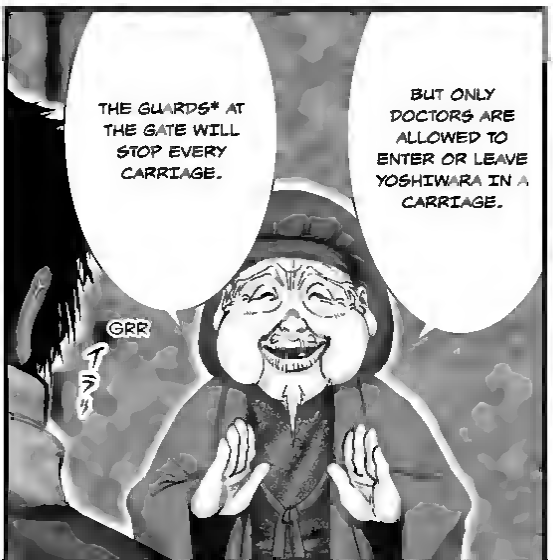
.....
WILY SON OF A BITCH.



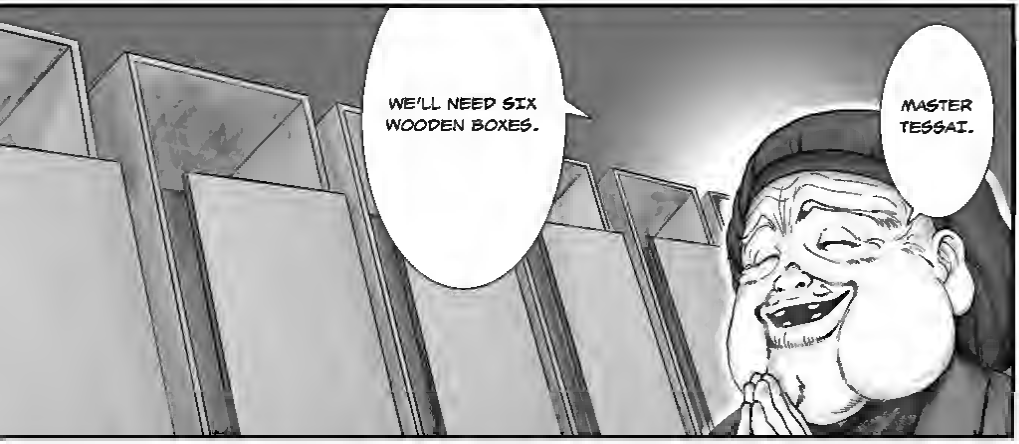


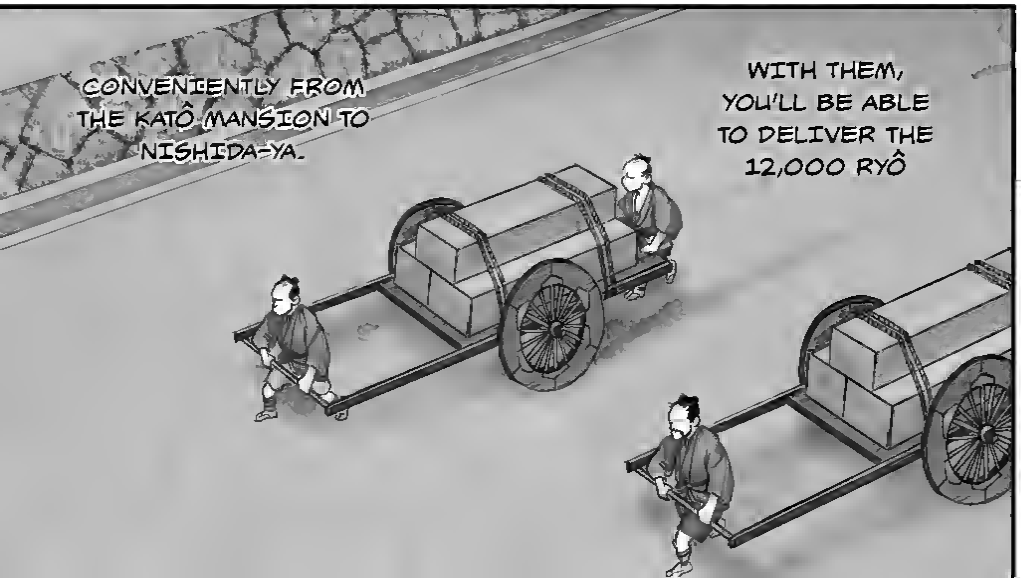
NISHIDA-YA WILL BE AFFECTED.
IF A COMMOTION WERE TO GET OUT
THE GIRLS ARE FRIGHTENED AND WILL CAUSE A FUSS
IF THEY LEARN WHERE THEY ARE GOING.

*Guards were posted at the main gate of Yoshiwara to keep brothel women from escaping.

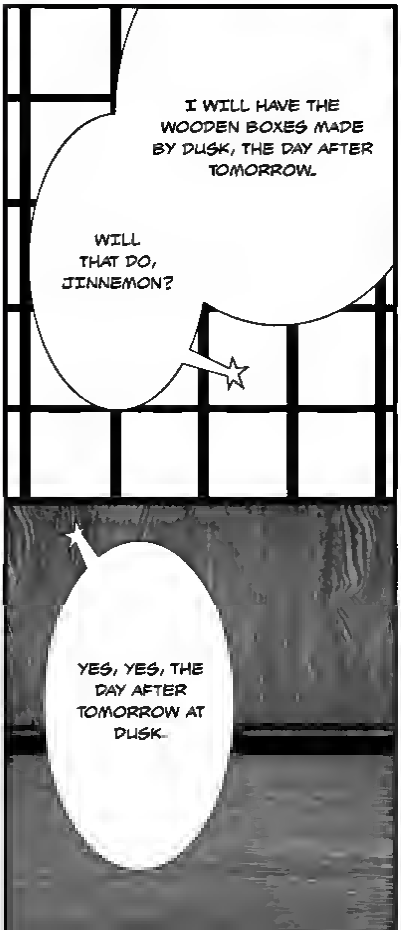

THE GUARDS* AT THE GATE WILL STOP EVERY CARRIAGE.
BUT ONLY DOCTORS ARE ALLOWED TO ENTER OR LEAVE YOSHIWARA IN A CARRIAGE.
GRR
イラ

A GOOD IDEA IF I SAY SO MYSELF!
SLAP
OH YES!
LET'S PUT THEM IN WOODEN BOXES LIKE REAL KYÔ DOLLS AND SNEAK THEM OUT.


WE'LL NEED SIX WOODEN BOXES.
MASTER TESSAI.


CONVENIENTLY FROM THE KATÔ MANSION TO NISHIDA-YA.
WITH THEM, YOU'LL BE ABLE TO DELIVER THE 12,000 RYÔ

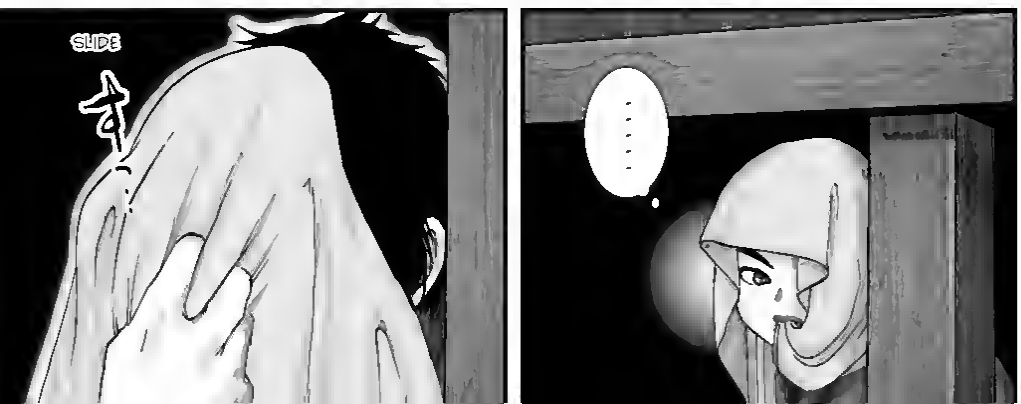
NO-WORRIES ABOUT BEING STOPPED AT THE MAIN GATE...
AND ON THE RETURN TRIP, THE BOXES WILL CONTAIN...


I WILL HAVE THE WOODEN BOXES MADE BY DUSK, THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW.
WILL THAT DO, JINNEMON?
YES, YES, THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW AT DUSK.

KILL TWO BIRDS WITH ONE STONE.
IS THIS AGREEABLE TO YOU BOTH?
YES, YES, THAT'S CORRECT.

FINE.
.....

DON'T FAIL ME, JINNEMON.
YOU MUST KNOW THIS....
SLIDE
I WON'T ACCOMPANY YOU NEXT TIME!
DAMN HIM! THAT JINNEMON IS SO SMUG.
FINE. I'LL GO MYSELF.
YES, YES, I UNDERSTAND.
LEAVE IT TO ME.


SLIDE
...

WIPE

NOW THAT'S WHAT I CALL
DIRTY MONEY...
STORY 10 END

SHINAGAWA
TŌKAIJI TEMPLE
HARUSAME
HERMITAGE
SLIDE
SAKURA
PULL
PULL

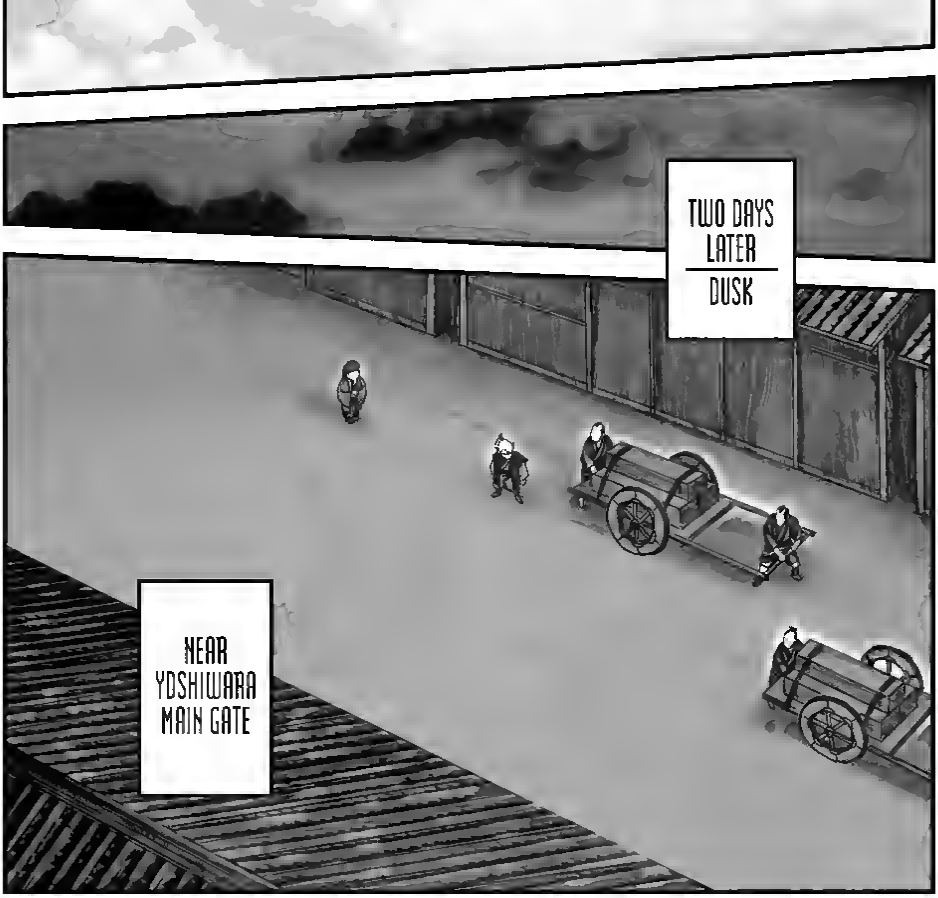
STORY 11: A GROUP OF DEMONESSES

THE SEAMSTRESS WHO SNUCK INTO NISHIDA-YA DISAPPEARED...
THANKS TO THE DISGUISES OSAWA MADE FOR US,
SU
HERE, MY WAKI-ZASHI.
FLIP
GYU
KYU
IN HER PLACE, A YOUNG SAMURAI WHO'S HAD HIS FIRST POKE...
POINT
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
THAT'S ME.
POINT
AND HIS HORNY UNCLE.

WE WERE ABLE TO WALK BY THE NISHIDA-YA GUARDS.
AND PASS THROUGH THE GATE WITHOUT ANY DIFFICULTY.

NOW
COMES THE TRAP THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW AT DUSK.
BE PREPARED.
TAP
しーん

YES!
SENSEI JYUBEI!

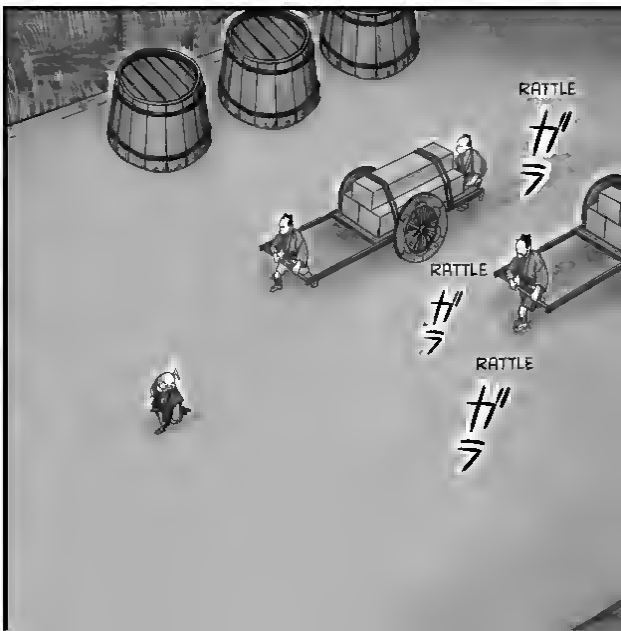

TWO DAYS LATER
DUSK
NEAR YOSHIWARA MAIN GATE

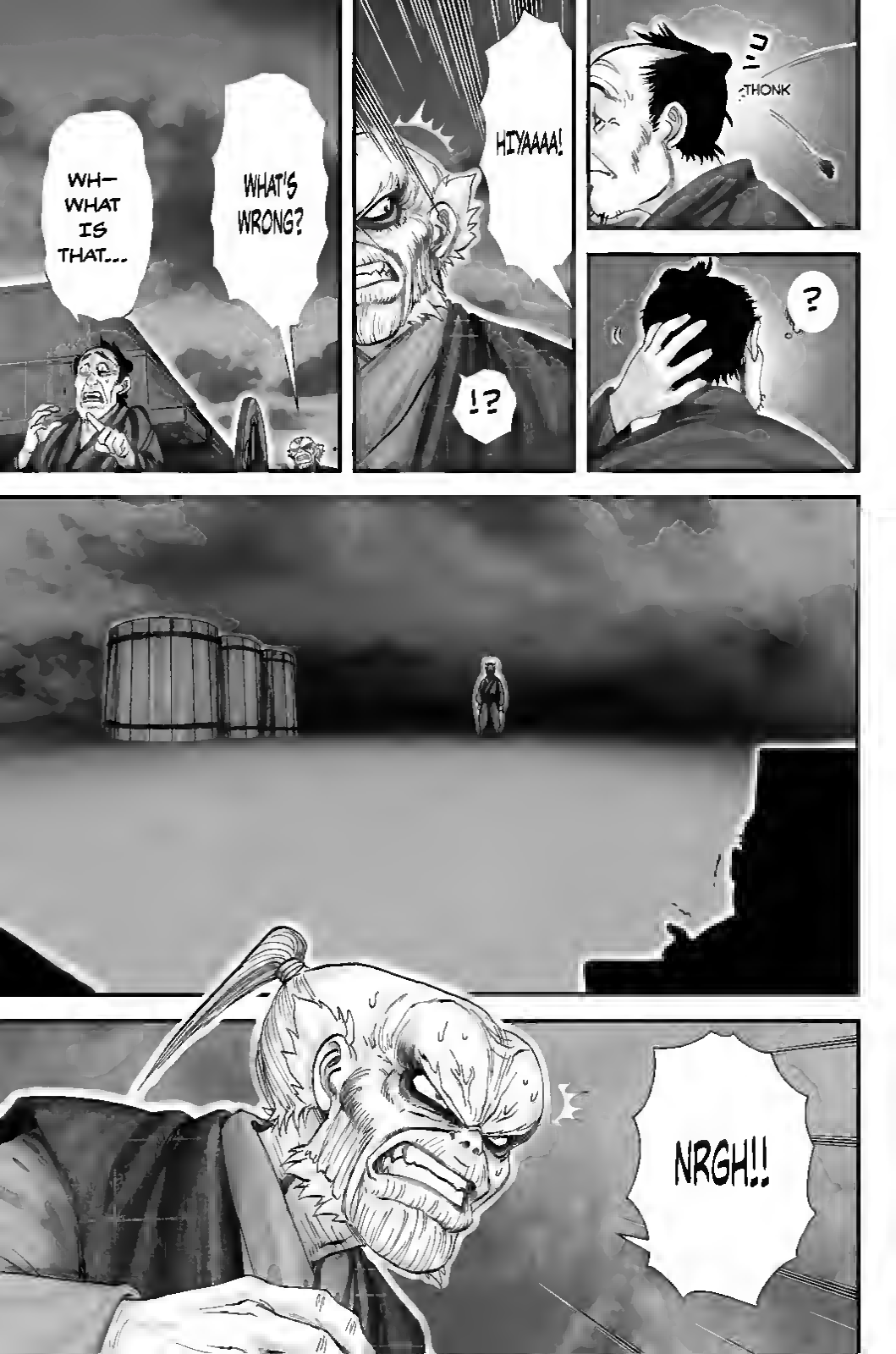
SIX KYÔ DOLLS... THEY'LL EVENTUALLY BE CAST OFF
SMILE
I CAN'T WAIT FOR THAT DAY

HMPH.
WELL NOW, MASTER TESSAI.
I WILL SEE YOU OFF FROM HERE.
SQUEEZE
SQUEEZE
もみ
もみ
MASTER TESSAI, YOU'RE SO SEVERE...
DON'T YOU, JINNEMON.
YOU WANT TO GO BACK AND COUNT YOUR MONEY
ガラ
RATTLE
ガラ
RATTLE
ガラ
RATTLE
ガラ
RATTLE
Y— YES!
LET'S GO, MEN!

RATTLE
ガラ
RATTLE
ガラ
RATTLE
RATTLE
ガラ
ガラ

RATTLE
RATTLE
ガラ
ガラ


RATTLE
ガラ
RATTLE
ガラ
RATTLE
ガラ


WH— WHAT IS THAT...
WHAT'S WRONG?
HIYAAAA!
!?
THONK
?
NRGH!!

HANNYA MASK!
YOU WON'T ESCAPE THIS TIME...
GIRR

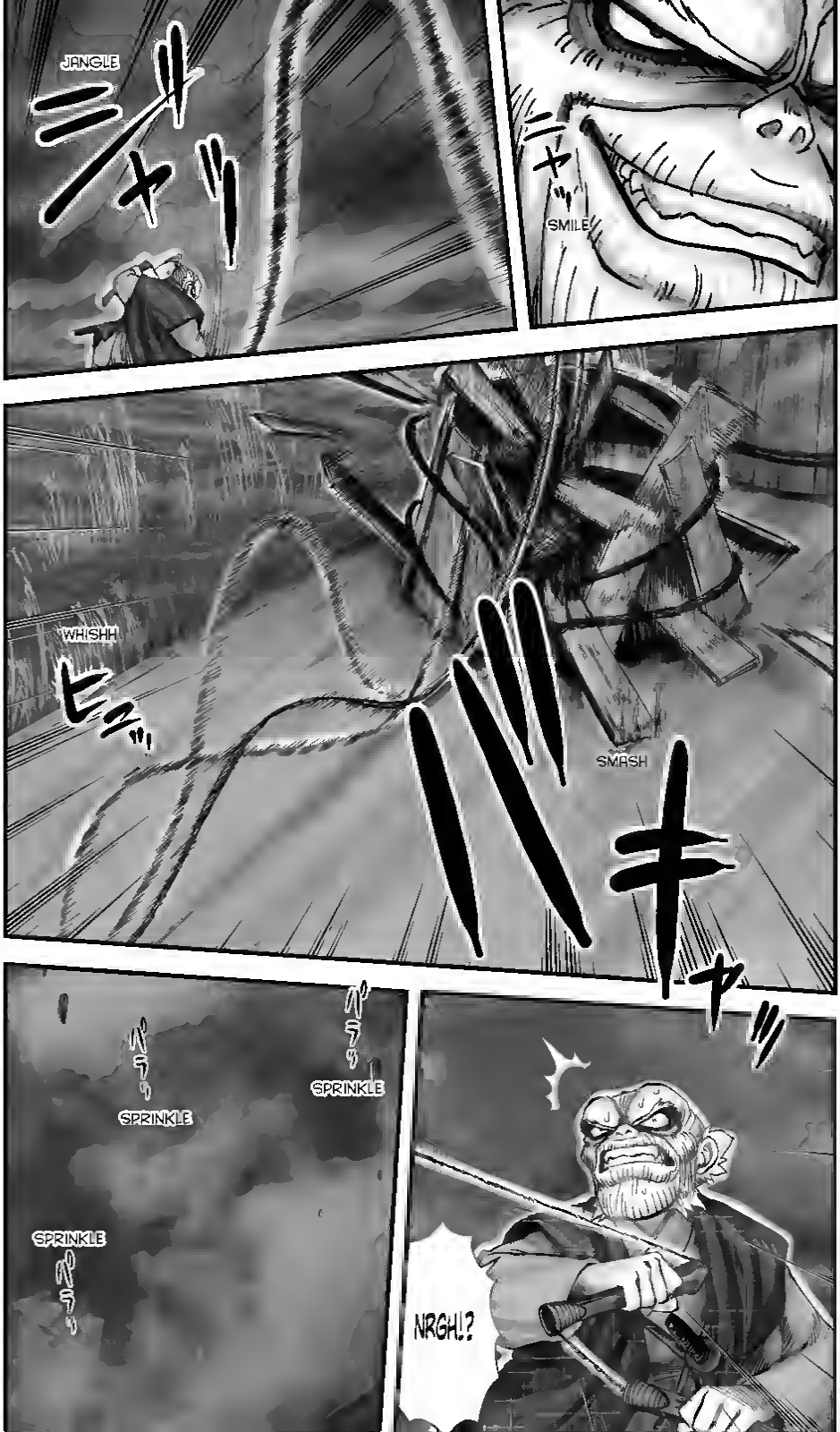
HYE—
HYEEEEH...

KRR
KRR
KRR
KRR
I'LL RIP THAT MASK OFF...
JYR
GO
SHOW YOUR FACE!

BO
WHISHH
JANGLE
TCH.
YANK
TA
TA
TA
KUKU

PUSH
ZAZAZAZA
NRGH!?
SLAM
KU
KU
KU...
KAHA!
LIKE A BUG CRAWLING INTO A TUB!
YANK

JANGLE
A TRAP TO CLIP MY LEGS WHEN I APPROACH!
I WON'T FALL FOR IT, YOU COCK-ROACH!
THUD
GGGHH


JANGLE
SMILE
WHISHH
SMASH
SPRINKLE
SPRINKLE
SPRINKLE
NRGH!?

YANK
A... BASKET!?
A STUPID TRICK!!
BOUNCE
BOUNCE
BOUNCE
BOUNCE
TESSAI!!
!?
WOMEN!!
SPIN
BOUNCE
JANGLE
JANGLE
JANGLE

CLANG
ZAZAZA
A HARSH RETRIBUTION!!
FOR VIOLATING THE CONVENT!!
THE HORI WOMEN...
GRIND
DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH!!
JYASHH

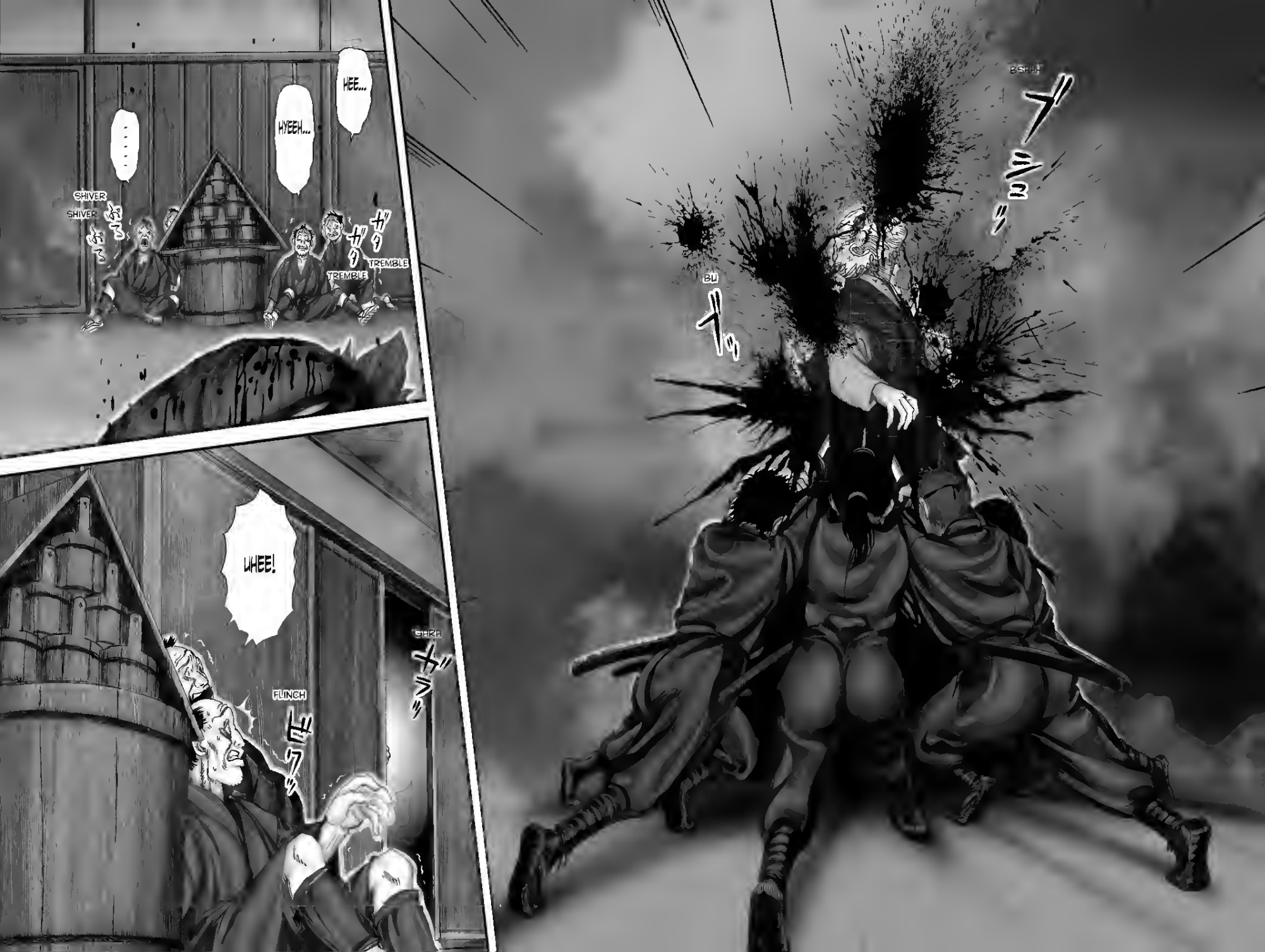
KU
KU
KU
KU
KU...
JANGLE
CLANG
WHISHH
SMILE

!?
KA
CLINK
CLINK
ZA

GUI
GRGH.
NRGH.
GSHH
CLANG
CLANG
GSHH
GSHH
KSHH
KSHH
KSHH
DAIDÔJI TESSAI!!

PREPARE TO DIE!!
ZAZA
UH.
AH...
AH.
ZA
GUI
GUI
UH...
ZAZAZAZA

...HH...
...GRR...
グイッ
PUSH
グイッ
PUSH
グイッ
PUSH
グイッ
PUSH
DOSSHHH


HEE...
HYEEH...
SHIVER
SHIVER
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
WHEE!
FLINCH
BSHH
BU

HM.
STORY 11 END

AHH, YOU THERE.
ARE YOU KATÔ'S MEN?
POINT
ちょん

SU
すっ
RUN AND YOU DIE.
HYEH!

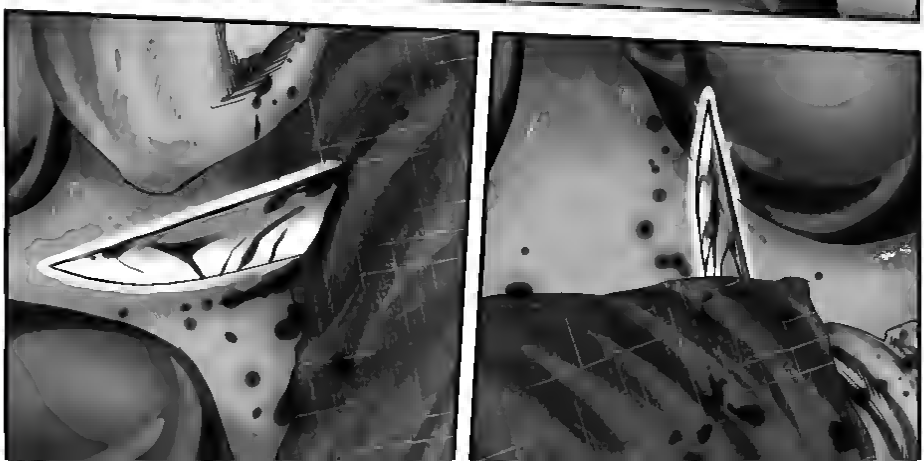
N, N...
JUST HIRED HANDS...
NO...
TREMBLE
ぶるぶる
TREMBLE
ぶるぶる
OH.
TREMBLE
ぶるぶる
TREMBLE
ぶるぶる
THEN WAIT HERE AWHILE.

WE CAN WAAAIT!
WE'LL WAIT!
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
ぶるぶる
TREMBLE
ぶるぶる

STORY 12: A GROUP OF DEMONESSES (2)

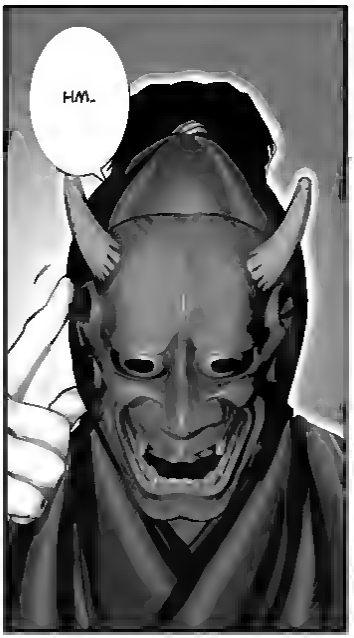
SO I WAS PREPARED TO LOSE TWO OR THREE OF YOU....
I PROMISED NOT TO HELP.

SENSEI JYUBEI...
WELL DONE.
REALLY.

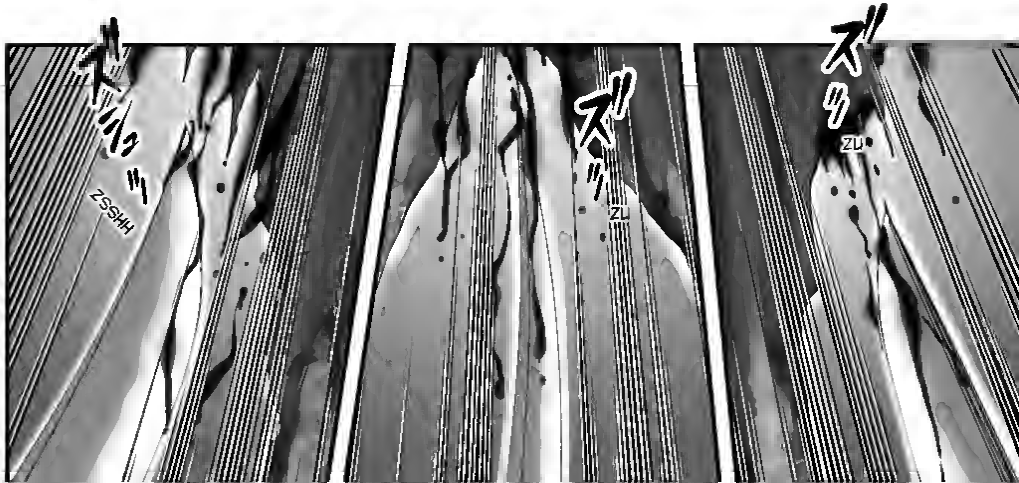


HE DIDN'T GET IN A DESPERATION ATTACK.
THAT WAS UNEXPECTED LUCK.
GATA
ガタ
HYEH.
GATA
ガタ
WELL DONE INDEED.
MM.
BOW
ペコ
HEHEH...
SU
スー
TUB-MAKER.

NOW, OCHIE.
YOU SHOULD GO. LEAVE THE REST TO ME.
AH...


HM.

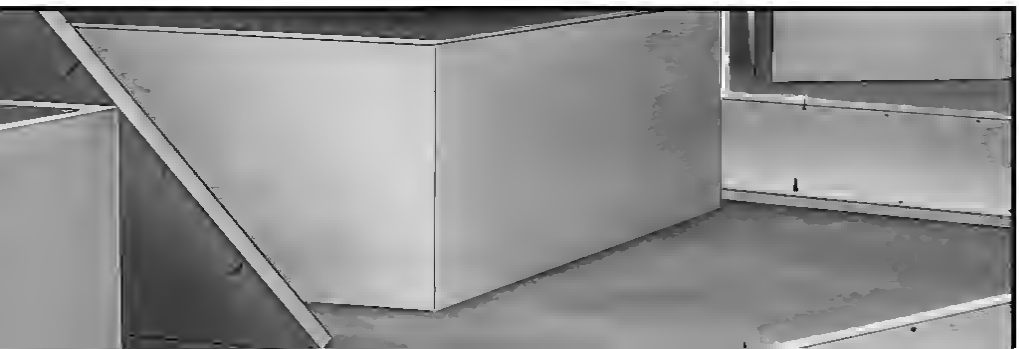
TH...THE SWORD...
...WON'T COME OUT


ZSSHH
ZU
ZU

ZSSHH
ZU
THUD

YE—YES!
NOW GO.
BOSS...
WHAT THE...
RUNNING

WE'VE COME THIS FAR. I'LL DO ANYTHING YOU ASK...
SU-SURE, BOSS!
WILL YOU DO ME ANOTHER FAVOR, TUB-MAKER?
YE-YES!
HEY. GET ME A CHISEL AND NAIL-PULLER!
. . . . .
OF-OF COURSE!
WILL YOU OPEN THOSE WOODEN BOXES?
CAREFUL NOT TO BREAK THEM.



...COLLECTING WOMEN AND KILLING THEM
THERE IS A DAIMYÔ WHO ENJOYS NOTHING BUT...
UH...
FLINCH
ぴくっ
ごくり
.....
.....
THESE SIX KYÔ DOLLS
WERE SOLD AND TO BE SACRIFICED FOR THAT PURPOSE
SA-SACRIFICE!!
?
WHAT THE...
WHA...
BLUSH
ぽ～～
DAZED
ぽ～～～

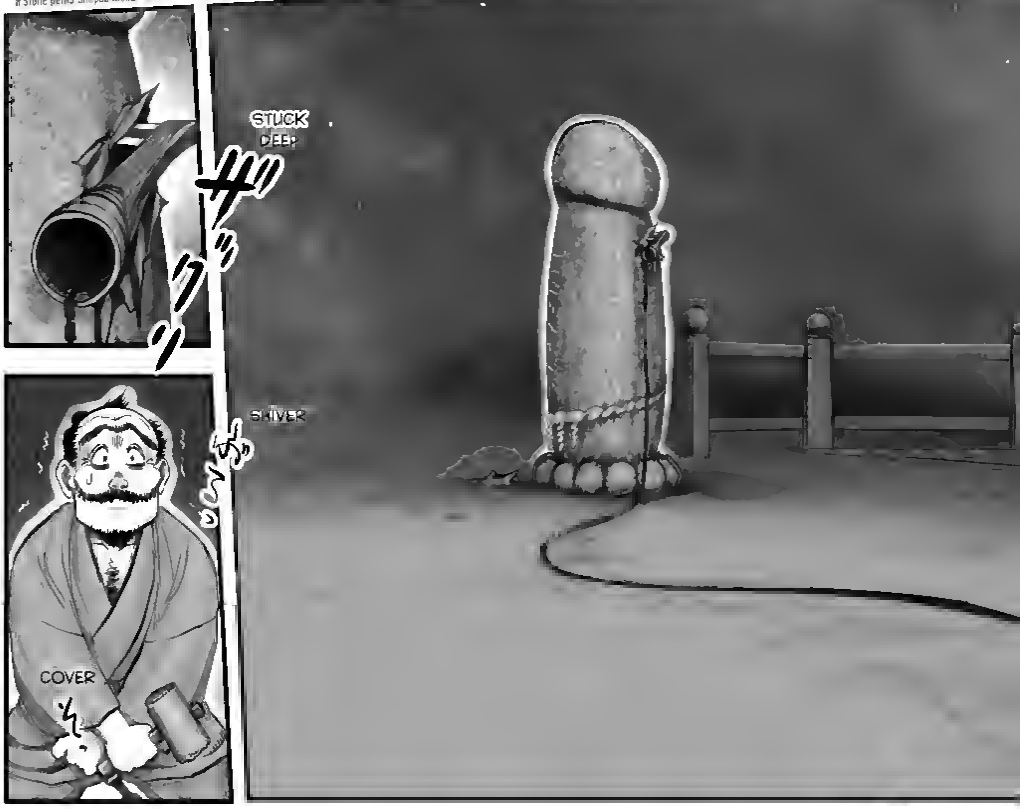
TH-THESE GIRLS WERE GOING TO BE KILLED?
.....
?

TURN
HEY.
YOU THERE!!
FLINCH

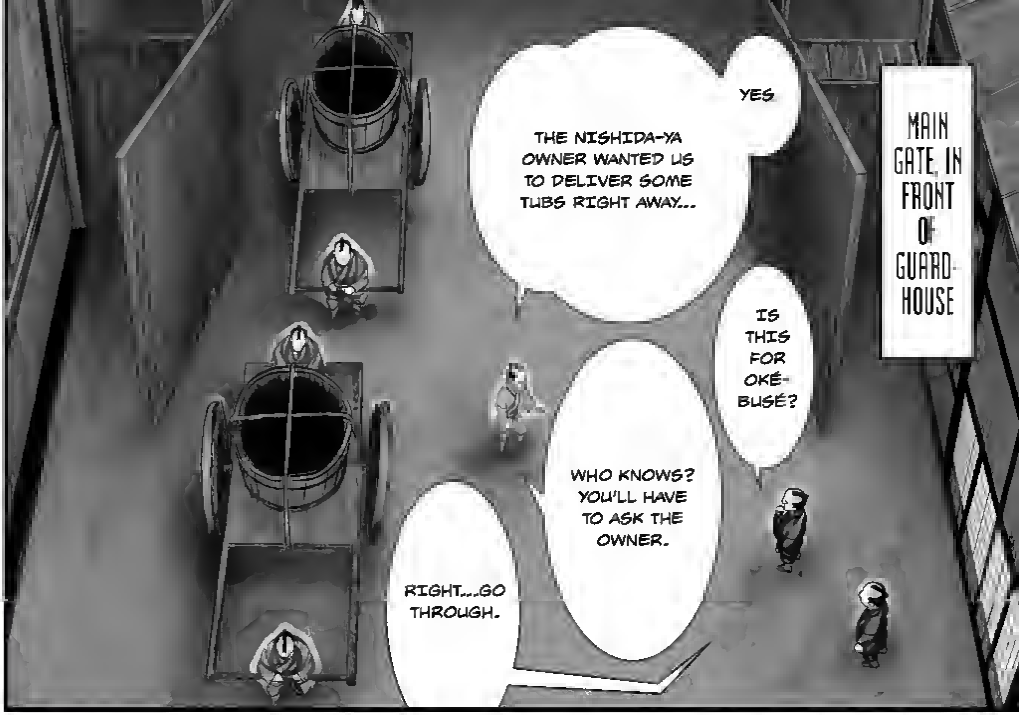
THAT COMMOTION EARLIER WAS REVENGE FOR ALL THE WOMEN WHO'VE ALREADY BEEN KILLED.
THAT'S RIGHT, TUB-MAKER.

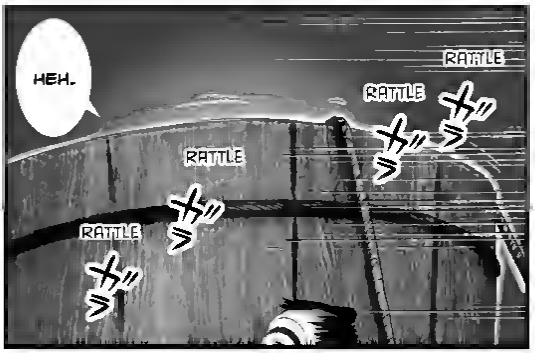
HO-HOW COULD YOU
TAKE ON SUCH A CRUEL JOB!
N-NOW WAIT!
WE DIDN'T KNOW ANY-THING...
WE DIDN'T KNOW.
WHAT WAS INSIDE THE BOX 'TIL NOW!
SHUT UP!
I'LL RIP OUT YOUR BALLS! GET OVER HERE!
HIY-HIYEHHHH.
AH...WAIT WAIT! TUB-MAKER-THEY'RE NOT TO BLAME.
BUT, BOSS...
BRR
BRR

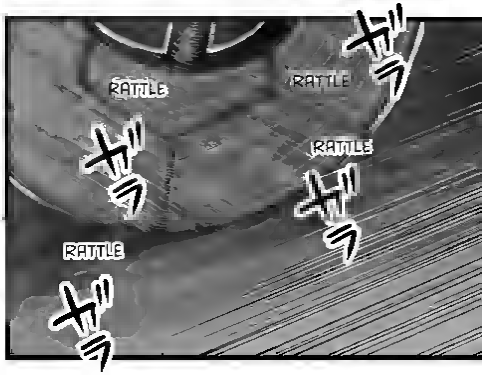
*a stone penis-shaped monument that is supposed to bring good luck with money

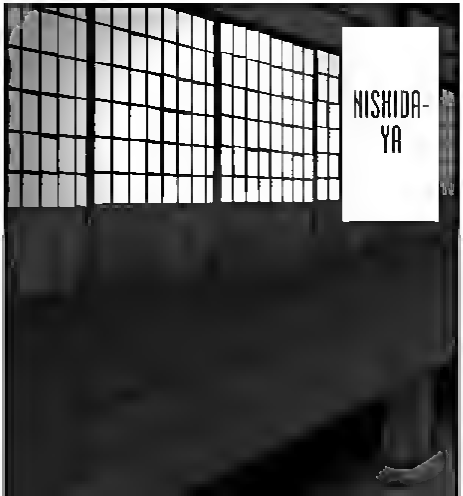


. . . .
WILL NEED TRAVEL MONEY TO GO BACK TO KYOTO.
HM.
RUB
TUB-MAKER.
YE— YES!
AND HIRED HANDS.
HEE... YE- YES.
WILL YOU HELP ME WITH SOMETHING ELSE...
FOR THESE GIRLS?
YES!
ASK US ANY- THING!
YOSHI WARA MAIN GATE
YOU THERE WHAT IS THIS?
RATTLE
RATTLE
RATTLE
RATTLE
RATTLE
RATTLE
RATTLE


MAIN GATE, IN FRONT OF GUARD-HOUSE
YES.
THE NISHIDA-YA OWNER WANTED US TO DELIVER SOME TUBS RIGHT AWAY...
IS THIS FOR OKÉ-BUSÉ?
WHO KNOWS? YOU'LL HAVE TO ASK THE OWNER.
RIGHT...GO THROUGH.

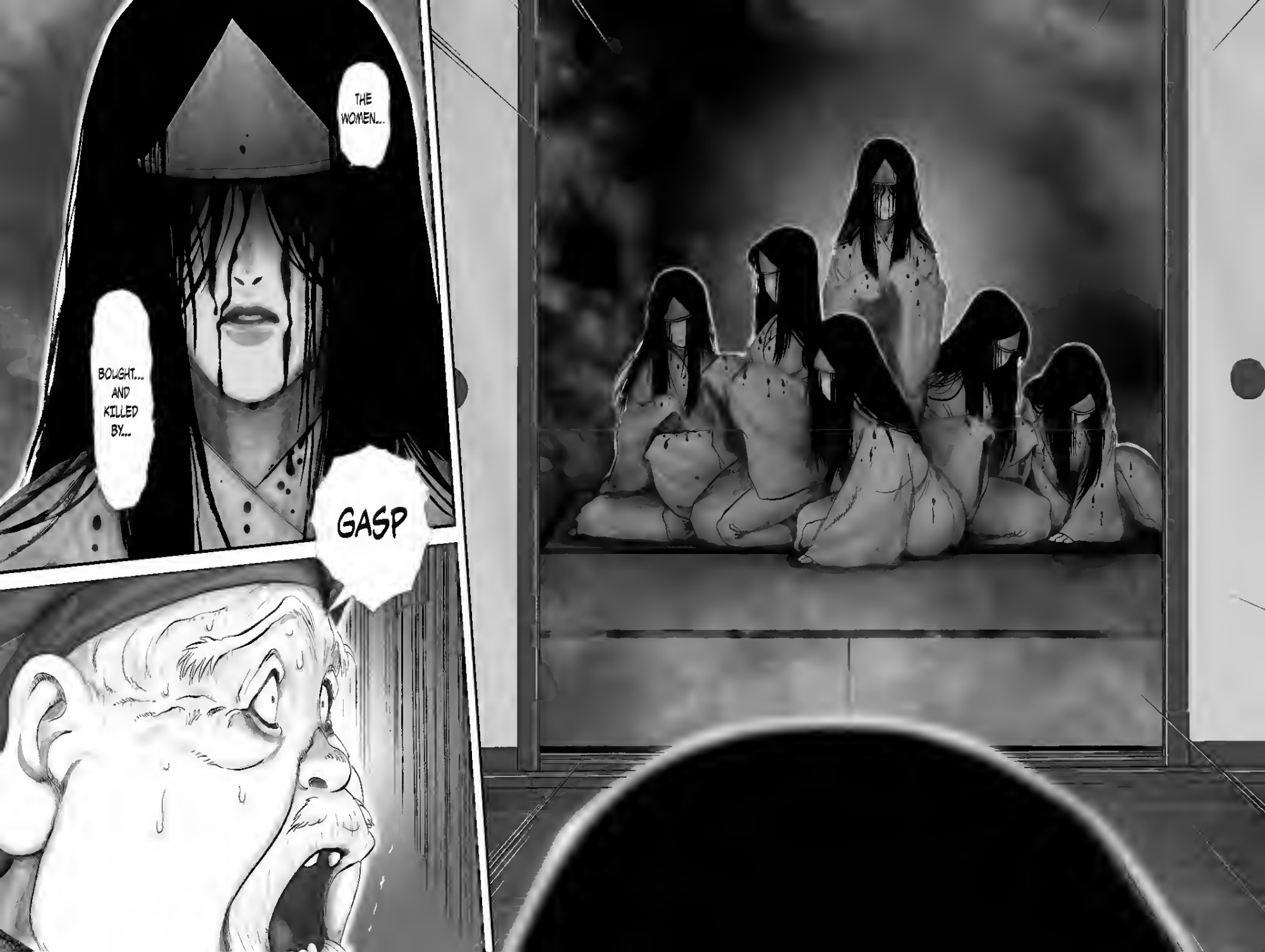

HEH.
RATTLE
RATTLE
RATTLE
RATTLE


RATTLE
RATTLE
RATTLE
RATTLE


NISHIDA-YA

INSIDE YOSHIWARA
EDO 1-CHOME
RATTLE
RATTLE
RATTLE
RATTLE

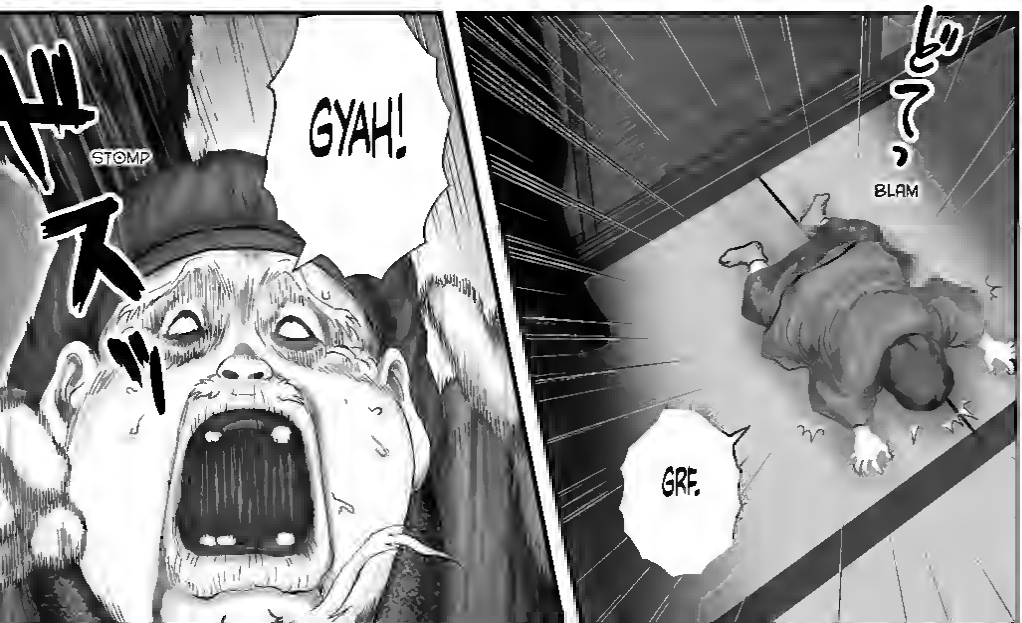
HEE HEE.
FEHEHE-HEH....
12,000 RYÔ.
CONK
?
HEE HEE.
HEE HEE HEE.
SLIDE


THE WOMEN...
BOUGHT... AND KILLED BY...
GASP

...THE AIZU KATŌ FAMILY...
NUMBER IN THE TENS OF DOZENS...
...TO THE... SANZU RIVER...
WAILING...
WANDERING... AT THE CROSS-ROADS OF SIX PATHS*...
According to Buddhist belief, you are reborn into one of six worlds depending on your conduct in the past life. Each path leads to a different world.
.....

STOP IT, YOU BITCHES!!
YOU'RE RAVING MAD!!

BAM
UH!?
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
STOP!

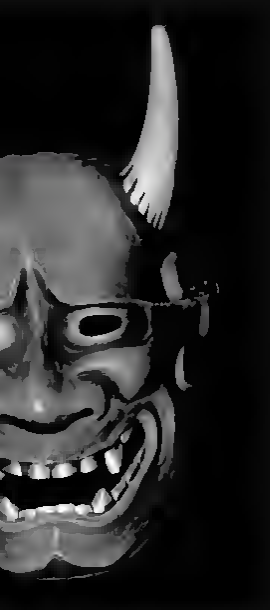

STOMP
GYAH!
BLAM
GRF.

THE MASK OF A DEMO-NESS?
WH...WHO ARE YOU!
ENMA'S...
POINT
AND TOLL MONEY FOR THE SIX PATHS.
FERRY MONEY FOR THE SANZU RIVER.
WE NEED...
GEH.

...WIFE.
'CAUSE I'M A DEMO-NESS.
PIN
ピン

TWITCH
ピク
.....

GIGGLE, TEE HEE
GIGGLE, TEE HEE
GIGGLE, TEE HEE
GIGGLE, TEE HEE
GIGGLE TEE HEE
STORY 12 END



WH...
WHO ARE YOU!
TITTER, TEE HEE
TITTER, TEE HEE
TITTER, TEE HEE
TITTER, TEE HEE
ENMA'S...
...WIFE.
PIN

WH...WHO THE HELL DO YOU THINK I AM!
I'M THE HEAD OF THE YOSHIWARA DISTRICT, SHÔJI JINNEMON!!
FLAIL
FLAIL
FLAIL

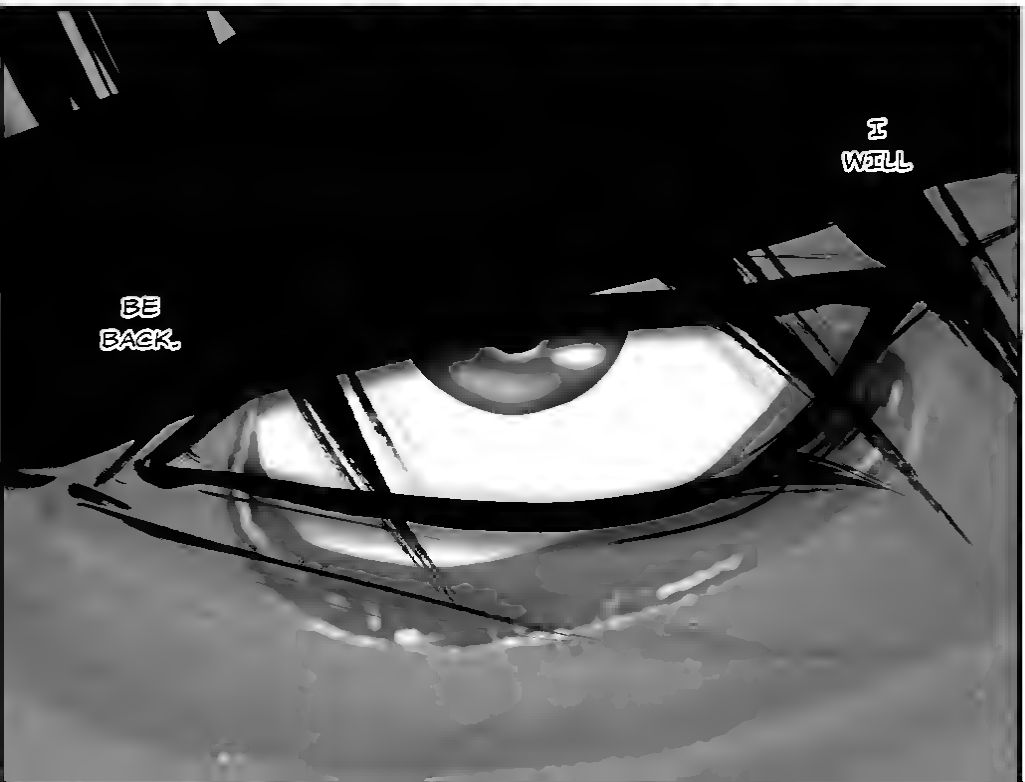
STORY 13: THE BEARDED KYÔ DOLL

UN... NRGH.
WHO ARE YOU?
MUKÔSAKA JINNAI.
HEH.
I'M THE SON.
MUKÔSAKA WAS CRUCIFIED THIRTY YEARS AGO!!
GE-GET OUT!

GIGGLE
BASTARD!
DON'T LIE!
DO-DON'T MESS WITH ME!
FLAIL
FLAIL
FLAIL
FLAIL
- - - -
12,000 RYÔ.
MUCH... DO YOU WANT?
...HOW...
PANT
PANT
PANT
PANT
GIGGLE
GIGGLE
GIGGLE
GIGGLE
PUH.
GREEDY...
DO- DON'T BE SO...

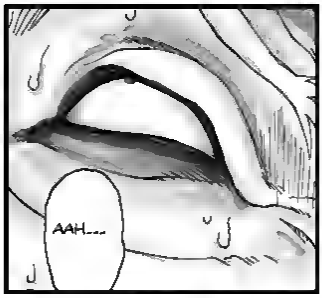
IF I PAY...YOU WON'T EVER SHOW YOURSELF AGAIN?
WHEW
I'M NOT AS GREEDY AS YOU, SO I'LL LET YOU OFF WITH 2,000 RYO.
HOWEVER.
THERE IS HONOR EVEN AMONG VILLAINS!!
YOU BASTARD!
NO, I'LL BE BACK.
WHA-
HEE.
GRAB
SO.
YOU ADMIT TO BEING A VILLAIN.

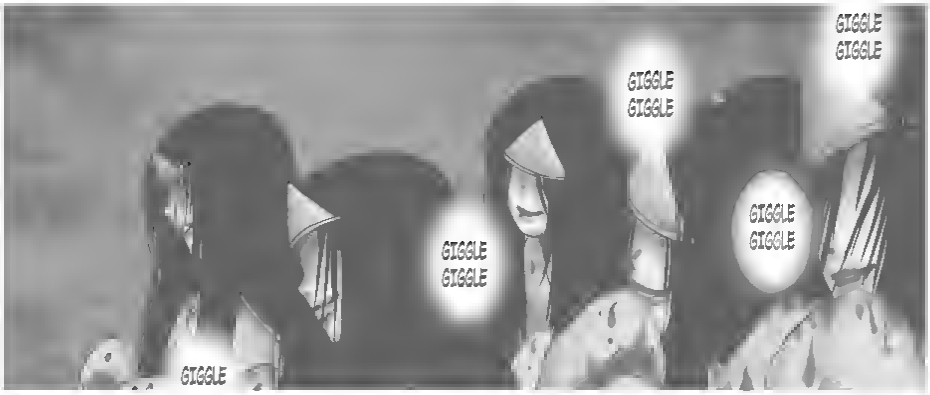
IF YOU EVER SELL WOMEN TO THE KATÔ FAMILY AGAIN...
AFTER TODAY.
HAH.
STAB
URGH.
FLINCH


I WILL
BE BACK.

.....
JORRRRRRRR
ジョロロロロ

DRIP
ポタッ


AAH...


GIGGLE
GIGGLE
GIGGLE
GIGGLE
GIGGLE
GIGGLE
GIGGLE
GIGGLE

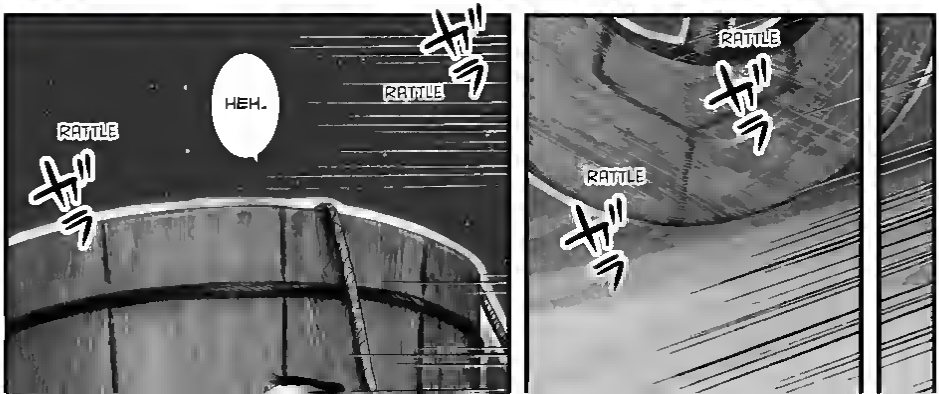
.....
GULP..
ゴクッ...

PANT
ゼェ
PANT
ゼェ
PANT
ゼェ

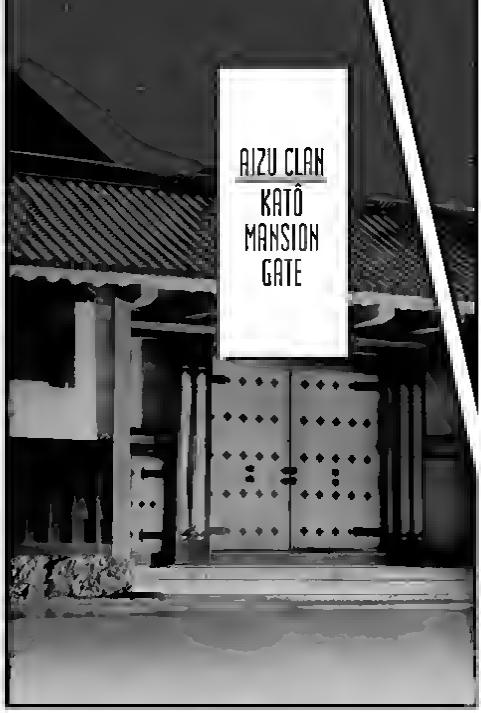
DO NOT
SPEAK OF THIS TO ANYONE.
UNDER-STAND?
KACHIIN
カチン
BANDIT JINNAI.
コク
NOD
コク
NOD
NOD
コク
NOD
コク

YOSHI-
WARA
MAIN
GATE
WELL, IT SEEMS.
HEY, TUB-MAKER, YOU STILL HAVE YOUR TUBS?
OH?
RATTLE
RATTLE
RATTLE
RATTLE

TURNS OUT HE HAD ENOUGH TUBS...YEP.
SHH.
GIGGLE
GIGGLE
GIGGLE
GIGGLE
THE BOSS AT NISHIDA-YA MADE A MISTAKE...

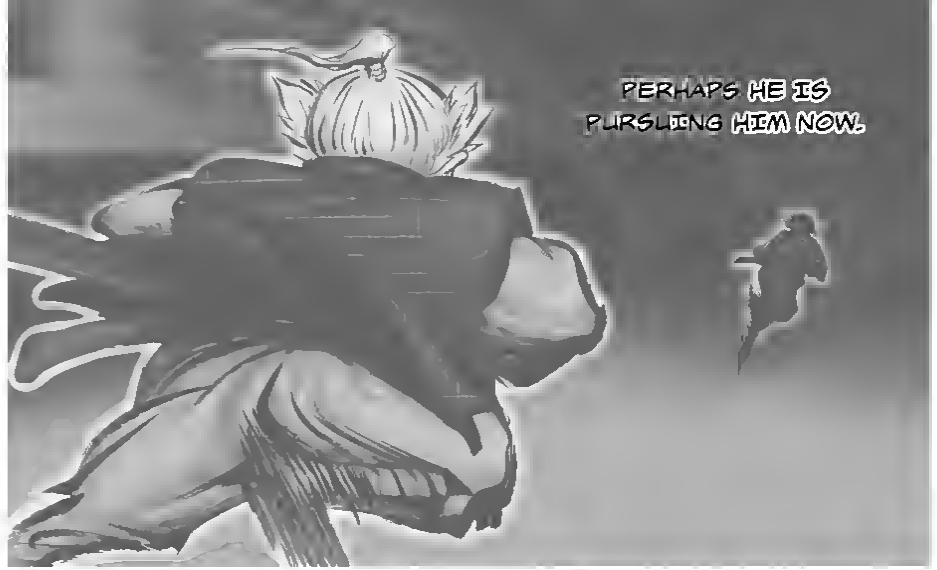

HEH.
RATTLE
RATTLE
RATTLE
RATTLE

コン
CONK

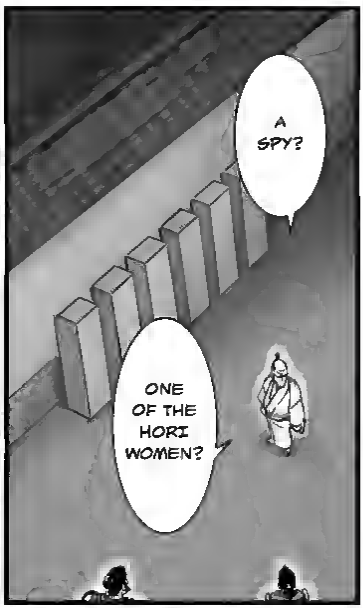

AIZU CLAN
KATÔ
MANSION
GATE

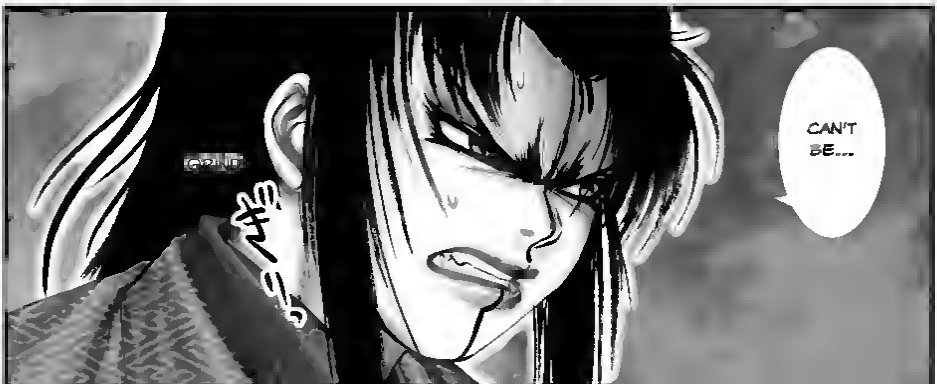
?
CREAK
ギィ

. . . . .
ONLY THESE SIX BOXES WERE LEFT AT THE GATE?
NO SIGN OF TESSAI OR THE HIRED MEN...
THIS IS ALL VERY SUSPICIOUS...
INDEED.
PERHAPS TESSAI ARRIVED AT THE GATE.
AND REALIZED A SPY WAS TAILING HIM...


PERHAPS HE IS PURSUING HIM NOW.

NO...
IF IT WERE TESSAI WOULD BE DONE WITH HER BY NOW.


A SPY?
ONE OF THE HORI WOMEN?


CAN'T BE...

IT MIGHT BE.
THE SPY FROM THE OTHER NIGHT WE SPOKE OF.
. . . . . .
MAYBE THE HIRED MEN RAN AWAY WHEN THEY CAUGHT SIGHT OF THE
HANNYA MASK....
IT EXPLAINS WHY THEY'RE NOT HERE.

ALL OVER EDO NIGHT AND DAY. I ASSURE YOU WE WILL FIND THEM...
PLEASE! WE HAVE BEEN LOOKING.
GLARE
TCH.
YOU'VE FAILED TO FIND SEVEN WOMEN...AND NOW...
!?
HMPH.
GLARE
YOU HAVEN'T EVEN FOUND OUT THE IDENTITY OF THE HANNYA MASK WHO AIDS THEM.
.....
DOHAKU'S APPRENTICES... PERHAPS I'VE OVERESTIMATED YOUR ABILITIES.
HM?

WHAT?
WHO HE IS.
DOESN'T MATTER.
THEN.
HE KNOWS HOW THE ENEMY FIGHTS.
GRR
IF TESSAI DID GO AFTER THE HANNYA MASK.
TESSAI WILL FALTER AGAIN!
...IN WHICH CASE,
THERE IS NO WAY THAT...

JUST OPEN THE BOXES!
ENOUGH.
A MOMENT.
LORD AKINARI...
. . . .
ZA
WHAT IS IT, KÔSHICHIRÔ?

KASSH
カシャッ
SUSPI-
CIOUS.
SOME-
THING
IS...
ZA
KACHIN

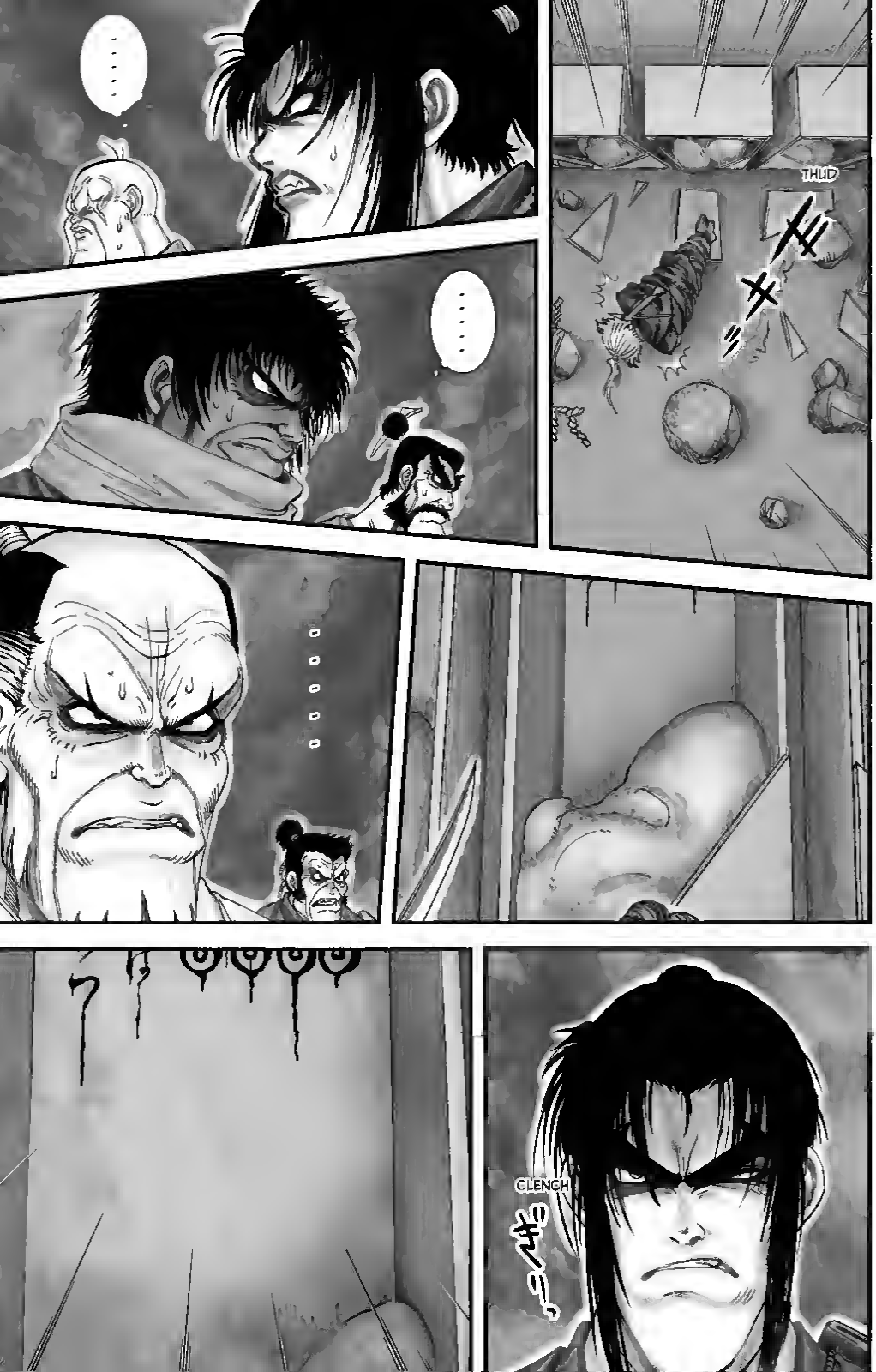
FLAPPING
JYAAH
KA
KAKA
ZA

BARA
バラッ
BARA
バラ
BARA
バラ
BARA
バラ
BARA
バラッ
THONK
ドト
THONK
ドトッ
THONK
ドト
THONK
ドトッ
!!
ROLL
ゴロ…

GRGHH!?
!!

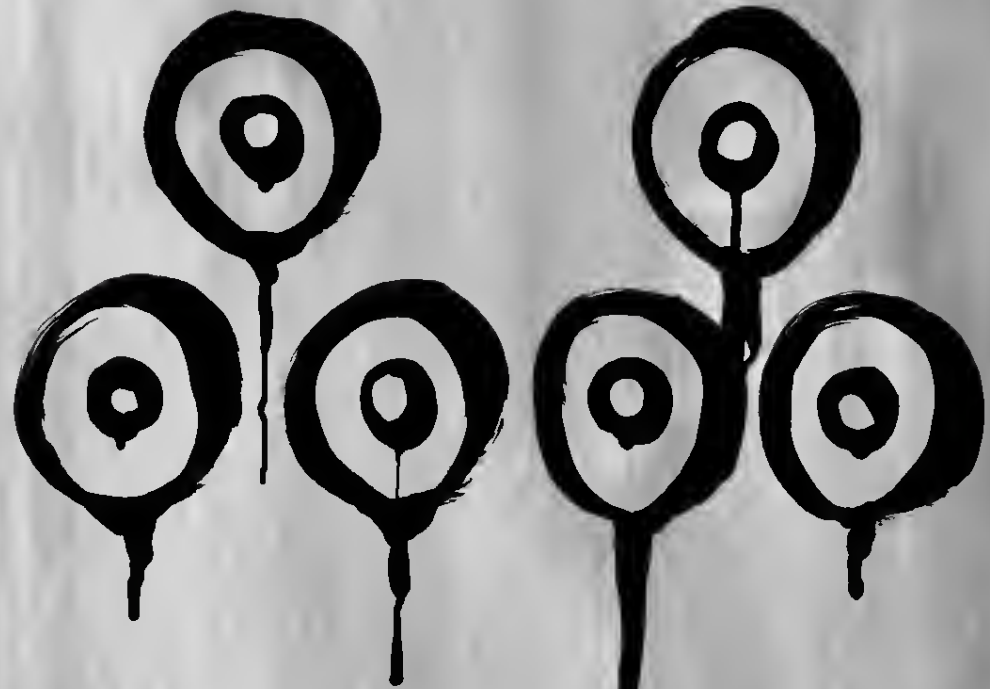
TE-
TESSAI!!

GSSHH
FALLING
SCRATCH
SCRATCH
SCRATCH
GUN


THUD
CLENCH

SEVEN SNAKE EYES

蛇の目は六つ



STORY 13 END
TO BE CONTINUED IN VOLUME 3

about the authors

FŪTARO YAMADA

Born in 1922 in Hyogo Prefecture, Fūtaro Yamada made his debut as a novelist while still a student at Tokyo Medical University. Yamada was known for his mystery novels such as *Genchuu No Akume*. Later, his Ninja Scrolls series became wildly popular. He penned a wide body of literature, including the period piece *Makaitensei*, as well as several collections of essays such as *Ato Senkai No Banmeshi* and *Ningen Rinjyuu Zukan.* He passed away on July 28, 2001.

MASAKI SEGAWA

Masaki Segawa made his debut in 1997 with the series *Senma Monogeteri,* which ran in the weekly comic *Morning*. In 1998, he began his long-running *Uppers* magazine series *Onigiri Jyuuzou,* which ended in the year 2000. This is his second-longest-running series and his first adaptation. He loves cats and watermelon. He currently resides in Funabashi.

Translation Notes

Japanese is a tricky language for most Westerners, and translation is often more an art than a science. For your edification and reading pleasure, here are notes on some of the places where we could have gone in a different direction or where a Japanese cultural reference is used.

Hannya mask, page 25

Mask of a demoness, with horns and a face expressing a woman's jealousy, scorn, and pain.

Sensei, page 62

Sensei is Japanese for teacher.

"THE SEVEN SPEARS OF SHIZUGATAKE."
WHEN FATHER FOUGHT IN THE BATTLE OF SHIZUGATAKE
IN LORD HIDEYOSHI'S ARMY, HE AND OTHERS EARNED THE TITLE OF

Lord Hideyoshi, page 64

Toyotomi Hideyoshi was the first person to unify the warring clans and to rule all of Japan.

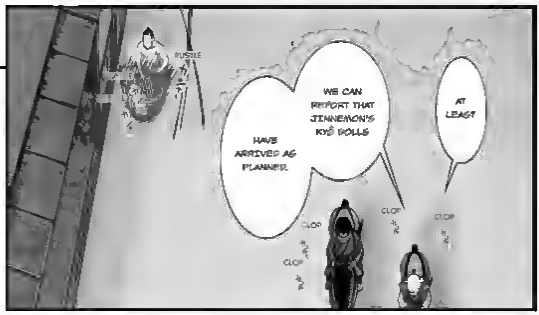
FWOM
FWOM
FWOM
THE AIZU NOW RULES OVER 400,000 KOKU THANKS TO FATHER'S SURE LEADERSHIP.
EXCEPT THE KATÔ FAMILY.
MOST OF THE SEVEN SPEARS HAD PER-ISHED!

400,000 *koku*, page 65

A *koku* is a standard measurement of rice, but it's also used as a measurement of land ruled over by a lord. The Aizu clan rules over 400,000 *koku*. In other words, it rules over an area that could cultivate 400,000 *koku* of rice.

Kyô dolls, page 78

Dolls with long, black hair that were made to look like typical Kyoto women. In this case, the women are being likened to the dolls.



Yoshiwara, page 79

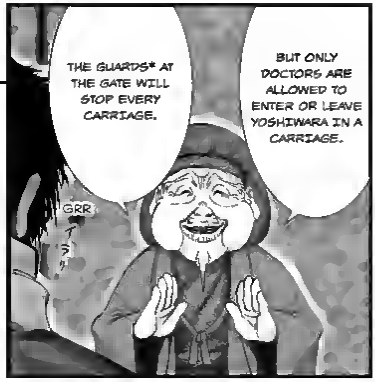
A brothel district recognized by the Edo shogunate.

Ama, page 112

Ama is the word for nun in Japanese. The seamstress's name is *ama* with an "o" in front to make it sound like a woman's name, e.g., Otori, Ochie, etc.

***Ryô*, page 113**

Ryô was the standard Japanese currency before the yen. One oval gold coin amounted to one *ryô*. Because the coin was made of gold, it would have been very heavy to transport 12,000 *ryô*.


THE GUARDS* AT THE GATE WILL STOP EVERY CARRIAGE.
BUT ONLY DOCTORS ARE ALLOWED TO ENTER OR LEAVE YOSHIWARA IN A CARRIAGE.
GRR...

Carriage, page 116

A carriage or palanquin, usually carried by two men, was a mode of transportation reserved for people of high class and rank. Different types of carriages were used according to class and gender.

***Wakizashi*, page 124**

A *wakizashi* is a side sword. Samurai usually wore two swords on their left side (right if they're left-handed). One was the main long sword, and the other was a smaller sword called a *wakizashi*.

***Daimyô*, page 161**

Daimyô means "feudal lord." A *daimyô* is the head of a clan. Lord Akinari is the *daimyô* of the Aizu clan.

1-*chôme*, page 166

Chôme is a suffix roughly meaning "street."

Sanzu River, page 170

Sanzu means "three crossings" because there are three crossings to get to the other side of the river. On the seventh day, the dead are said to cross this river into the afterlife. It is the Buddhist version of the River Styx.

Enma, page 173

Enma is the great lord of the underworld, according to Buddhist belief.

Pinky sticking up, page 174

This is a hand gesture that means "woman." For example, "Is she your...[raise pinky]?" Although a bit crass, it's a gesture that's still used today in conversation.